X.6 CHEMTAL DISTRICT

X.6.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Chemtal
Mean Altitude:	360 meters.
Land Area:	1,733 sq.km.
Population 1990:	61,789
Population Density:	36 per sq.km.
No. of Villages:	104 main villages, 26 sub-villages
Main Economic Activity:	Agriculture and animal husbandry
Other Activities:	Carpet weaving

X.6.2 Background

Chemtal borders Jowzjan Province in the west, Char Bulaq and Balkh districts in the north and Shulgareh in the south. It is the third largest district in terms of area in Balkh Province. Southern and eastern parts of the district are mountainous.

X.6.3 Population

The latest estimates indicates the total population of Chemtal to be 61,789, out of which 7,823 are in Pakistan as refugees. Out of the total displaced population of about 10,000, who moved out of the district, it is estimated that about 3,000 have returned. Tajiks are ethnically dominant in Chemtal. Nomadic groups are present in Alburz mountain areas.

X.6.4 Agriculture

Agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of livelihood; carpet weaving is also a significant occupation. Northern part of Chemtal is irrigated and the main crop is wheat, cultivated in an area of 11,000 hectares in 1990. Cotton, barley, sesame, melon, and vegetables are among other crops grown in the district. Apple and grapes are the important fruits grown in a area of about 250 ha. and natural pistachio is found in the mountain areas.

Lack of improved seeds and fertilizer is the main constraint of Chemtal farmers.

X.6.5 Transport and Road Conditions

The condition of roads within Chemtal is extremely bad. Part of the road, i.e.

a 20 km. section from Chemtal to Dehadadi is asphalt and reasonably secure. However, rest of the road network within the district is composed of dirt-tracks and is insecure.

VI.6.6 Education

Presently there are no schools functioning in government controlled areas of Chemtal. According to the government sources, 16 school buildings were completely destroyed due to the war. Different political groups report that there are a few schools functioning in areas under their jurisdiction. A secondary school in Sari Asiab village managed by Harakat has 100 students and 5 teachers.

X.6.7 Health

Ministry of Public Health reports that there is one hospital in Chemtal. The hospital has one para-medical personnel, one nurse and one midwife. In Chattan, Naw Shahar and Surai-Nabi villages, the groups controlling the area are operating a few clinics attended by four doctors, seven nurses and four midwives. There are no pharmacies in this district. Canals and streams provide drinking water.

X.7 NAHRE SHAHI AND MARMOL DISTRICT

X.7.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Nahre Shahi (incl. Marmol)
Mean Altitude:	260 meters
Land Area:	1,871 sq.km.
Population (1990):	39,595
Population Density:	21 per sq.km.
No. of Villages:	27
Political Parties:	Government, Jamiat, Harakat, Hezbi
Main Economic Activity:	Agriculture
Other Activities:	Carpet weaving, pottery, straw mats, carpentry

X.7.2 Background

Nahre Shahi district covers a land area of 1,881 sq. km. The present Marmol district was recently seperated from Nahre Shahi. Jamiat, Harakat, and Hezbi opposition groups control most of Marmol which is the most mountainous district in the province. Marmol has a mean elevation of 1,800 meters above the sea level.

X.7.3 Population

UNIDATA estimates the population of Nare Shahi to be 39,595. The population density of 21 per square kilometer is one of the lowest in the province. The entire population in the district is rural.

Major ethnic groups are Tajiks and Pashtuns. As a result of the war about 15,000 peple have been internally displaced or have moved out of the country. About 2,000 people have reportedly returned. According to the UNHCR, 7,000 refugees from Nahre Shahi District are still in Pakistan.

X.7.4 Agriculture

The main source of livelihood in Nahre Shahi is agriculture and animal husbandry. According to the Irrigation Office, out of the cultivable area of about 38,000 ha., less than 50 percent of the land is being irrigated due to water shortage. The main source of water is a tributary of river Balkhab. Wheat is the dominant crop and barley, cotton, melon, and vegetables are also grown on a limited area. Due to the district's proximity to Mazar city, access to agricultural input and marketing of products by the farmers is relatively easy.

Alichopan Seed Farm, which covers an area of 440 hectares, is located in Nahre Shahi district. Under FAO assistance programme on improved seed production 40 hectares were cultivated with Afg-14 seed variety in 1990.

X.7.5 Other Economic Activities

Carpet weaving, pottery, straw mats, and carpentry are some of the cottage industries in the district.

X.7.6 Transport and Communication

Mazar-Balkh and Mazar-Kabul and Mazar-Hairatan roads connect the district with other parts of the province. The district, however, has no post office or telephone facilities.

X.7.7 Education

Status of education in Nahre Shahi District is better than in many other districts in the province. The government sources report that the district has ll primary and 2 secondary schools. The district population also has access to the educational facilities in Mazar. It has been reported that four school buildings were completely destroyed during the war.

X.7.8 Health

Since Mazar is located in the center of Nahre Shahi district, inhabitants of Nahre Shahi meet their health needs through the facilities available in Mazar. There is one clinic reportedly functioning in Ali Chopan village near Mazar with a medical team comprising of a doctor, a nurse and a midwife.

X.8 CHAR BULAQ DISTRICT

X.8.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Char Bulaq
Mean Altitude:	340 meters
Land Area:	511 sq.km.
Population (1990):	56,296
Population Density:	110 per sq.km.
No. of Villages:	78 main villages, 31 sub-village
Main Economic activity:	Agriculture and animal husbandry
Other Activities:	Carpet weaving

X.8.2 Background

Char Bulaq is located about 44 km. to the west of Mazar bordering Jowzjan province in the west, Balkh in the east, Dowlatabad in the north and Chemtal in the south. In terms of land area, Char Bulaq ranks the third smallest district in Balkh province.

X.8.3 Population

According to UNIDATA estimate, about 56,296 persons are living in Char Bulaq district and population density is 110 per sq. km. This district has suffered substantial damages to its economy during the last decade due to the war.

X.8.4 Agriculture

Main crop grown in the district is wheat, followed by sesame and barley. In 1989/90 it was estimated that 10,300 hectares were under wheat, 1,130 ha. under barley, and 942 ha. under cotton cultivation in the district. As a result of the continuous internal conflict during the last decade, maintenance of the irrigation system in the district is completely ignored. Some of the canals are reported to be badly damaged, making the area susceptible to flooding during the rainy season.

X.8.5 Other Economic Activities

Cottage industries such as carpet and rug weaving and small scale handicrafts are organised as part of the household activities. However, lack of marketing facilities is one of the main constraints for further development of this sector.

X.8.6 Transport and Road Conditions

The main highway from Mazar to Jowzjan and Faryab passes through Char Bulaq. This road is relatively secure and controlled by government and militia groups. The rest of the road network in the district is composed of dirt tracks.

X.8.7 Education

The education system in Char Bulaq is completely disrupted. The Department of Education reports that only two primary boys' schools with 130 students are presently functioning. The government sources claim that 24 school buildings were completely destroyed in the past 13 years.

X.8.8 Health

It is reported that in Nuwai Kot and Rozengan, the village controlled by Mahaz and Harakat, respectively, two clinics are functioning. The two clinics reportedly have seven medical doctors and eight nurses.

X.9 DOWLATABAD DISTRICT

X.9.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Dowlatabad
Mean Altitude:	315 meters
Land Area:	864 sq. km.
Population (1990):	80,876
Population Density:	93 per sq. km.
No. of Villages:	59 main villages, 13 sub-villages
Main Economic Activity:	Agriculture and animal husbandry
Other Activities:	Carpet and rug weaving, pottery

X.9.2 Background

Dowlatabad is located in the north-west of Mazar bordering Jowzjan province in the west and surrounded by Shur Tappeh, Balkh, and Char Bulaq districts. The war is reported to have relatively badly affected the district where many houses have been destroyed.

X.9.3 Population

UNIDATA estimates the population of the district to be 80,876 in 1990, of which 7,896 still live in Pakistan as refugees. Knowledgeable sources report that about 27,000 people were internally displaced due to the war. Uzbeks and Turkomans are the major ethnic groups in Dowlatabad.

X.9.4 Agriculture

Agriculture and animal husbandry are the two main economic activities in Dowlatabad. The Department of Agriculture estimates that 10,000 hectares of wheat was cultivated in 1990. Barley, sesame, melon, cotton and vegetable are also produced in the district. Dowlatabad is famous for grapes. Of the total 6,775 ha. under the crop in the province, 3,000 ha. are located in Dowlatabad district. Irrigation Department estimates that 156,000 ha. are irrigable under the existing irrigation canals; however, due to the damages to the canals, only 40 percent of the area is being cultivated at present.

X.9.5 Other Economic Activities

Carpet and rug weaving, mostly by Turkomani and Uzbeki groups, could be regarded as the main cottage industry in the district.

X.9.6 Transport and Road Condition

Except the asphalt road from Mazar to Balkh, the rest of the district road net work consists of gravel and dirt tracks. Trucks, tractors, carts and animals are the means of transport. Between Mazar and Dowlatabad, the road is secure.

X.9.7 Education

Education system is severely affected in the area. It is reported that 25 school buildings were completely destroyed during the last decade.

X.9.8 Health

In Dahestan and Qorchi Gak villages, where Nijati Milli and Harakat groups have control, two clinics are functioning attended by 3 doctors, 2 nurses, and 4 para medical personnel. Within the government controlled areas, one hospital, one clinic and a pharmacy are reported to be functioning. The number of medical personnel available in these facilities is not known.

Streams and canals are the main sources of drinking water.

X.10 SHUR TAPPEH DISTRICT

X.10.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Shur Tappeh
Mean Altitude:	280 meters
Land Area:	1,284 sq.km.
Population (1990):	30,896
Population Density:	24 per sq. km.
No. of Villages:	18 main villages, 1 sub-village
Political Parties:	Government, Jamiat
Main Economic Activity:	Agriculture
Other Activities:	Carpet weaving

X.10.2 Background

Shur Tappeh is located in the north of Balkh province bordering Soviet Union and Amu River in the north. Its topography varies from fertile agricultural lands to deserts.

X.10.3 Population

According to UNIDATA estimates, the 1990 population of the district is 30,896. Shur Tappeh has no refugees reported either in Iran or Pakistan. The dominant ethnic group is Turkomans followed by Uzbeks. A distinct feature in this district is that the houses in the localities are not confined to one place but are scattered over a wide area with farm land around the house. The villages are located along Amu River.

X.10.4 Agriculture

The area used for agriculture is only about 2 percent of the total area in the district; the rest is dry and desert land. Of the total of 3,000 ha. cultivated in 1989/90, 950 ha. had wheat followed by 714 ha. of cotton and 630 ha. of maize. These crops are irrigated by small canals from the tributaries of Amu River. Some farmers are also using water pumps to lift water from the river.

X.10.5 Other Economic Activities

Carpet weaving is one of the main activity among Turkoman and Uzbek ethnic groups. Straw mats known as Boria Baff are made in the villages and are in great demand in the market. Silkworm raising is also common in the hamlets near Amu River.

X.10.6 Transport and Road Conditions

Asphalted road network is not available and the district center can only be accessed by passing through Hairatan and Dowlatabad. The roads are sandy and muddy and become impassable during winters and the rainy season.

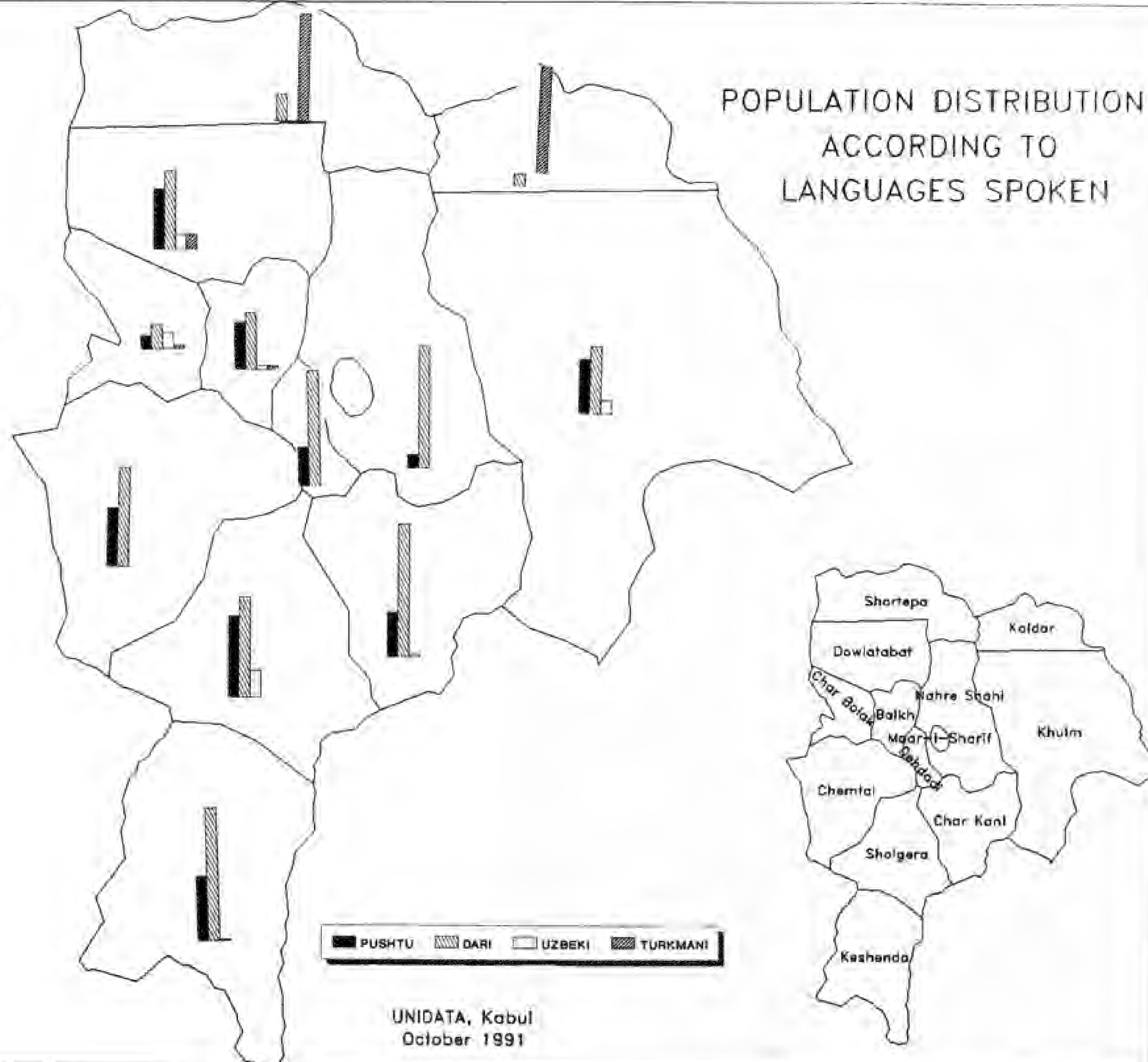
X.10.7 Education

There is no educational facilities other than Madrassas in the areas under the control of Mujahideen. According to the Department of Education, there are five primary schools functioning with 225 students. Five school buildings have been destroyed during the war.

X.10.8 Health

In the villages under the control of Jamiat, there are no clinics or trained medical personnel available. During the last decade no medical team has visited the area for even vaccination. Therefore, the propertion of children vaccinated is reported to be marginal (less than one percent). Polio, diphtheria, tuberculosis, and diarrhea are notable morbidity and health hazards in the area.

Main sources of drinking water are streams and canals.


BALKH
PROVINCE
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION
ACCORDING TO
LANGUAGES SPOKEN
PUSHTU
DARI
UZBEKI
TURKMANI
Shortepa
Kaldar
Dowlatabat
Char Bolak
Nahre Shahi
Balkh
Khulm
Char Kant
Chemtal
Sholgera
Keshenda
UNIDATA, Kabul
October 1991

X.11 KALDAR DISTRICT

X.11.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Kaldar
Mean Altitude:	305 meters
Land Area:	758 sq.km.
Population (1990):	13,469
Population Density:	18 per sq.km.
No. of Villages:	10 main villages, 4 sub-villages
Political Parties:	Government, Jamiat, Hezbi
Main Economic Activity:	Agriculture
Other Activities:	Carpet weaving

X.11.2 Background

Kaldar is located in the north-east of Mazar and borders Soviet Union in the north. The district has an areas of 758 sq. km. and consists of small agricultural area in the north and dry desert lands in the southern part of the district.

X.11.3 Population

UNIDATA 1990 estimates show the population of Kaldar to be 13,469. Turkomans and Uzbeks together dominate the ethnic composition. Settlements in Kaldar are similar to Shur Tappeh, and all hamlets are confined to the northern part of the district bordering Amu River.

X.11.4 Agriculture

Only about four percent of the land area is devoted to agriculture; the rest of the land is dry and consists of deserts. Most of the agricultural area is being irrigated by small tributaries from Amu River. The prinicpal crop in the district is maize, cultivated on about 1,600 hectares, followed by wheat (1,300 ha.) and cotton (840 ha.) in 1990. The only fruit found in Kaldar are grapes cultivated on an area of 250 ha. Animal husbandry is also an important activity in the district.

X.11.5 Other Economic Activities

Carpet weaving is the main activity, especially among Turkoman and Uzbek ethnic groups. According to the Ministry of Mines and Industries, Jair Khana village is supposed to have petroleum and gas deposits that have yet to be explored.

XI.11.6 Transport and Road Conditions

Kaldar-Hairatan and Kaldar-Kholm roads are party gravel and partly dirt tracks, and impassable during the rainy season.

X.11.7 Education

Education system is paralyzed in the district. According to the Education Department, there is only one primary school presently functioning with 69 students.

X.11.8 Health

Health problems in Kaldar appear to be similar to that of Shur Tappeh district. Diarrhea is said to be the main illness among children. Melnutrition is also prevelant in the population below the age of ten years.

X.12 CHAR KENT DISTRICT

X.12.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Char Kent
Mean Altitude:	200 meters
Land Area:	1,445 sq.km.
Population (1990):	36,490
Population Density:	25 per sq. km.
No. of Villages:	69 main villages, 9 sub-villages
Political Parties:	Harakat, Jamiat, Wahdat
Main Economic Activity:	Agriculture and animal husbandry
Other Activities:	Carpet weaving, handicrafts

X.12.2 Background

Char Kent is located in the south of Mazar bordering Samangan province in the south-east. The southern and eastern part of the district is mountainous, elevation ranging from 200 to 2,800 meters.

X.12.3 Population

The estimated population in Char Kent for the year 1990 is 36,490. Hazaras, Tajiks and Uzbeks constitute the major ethnic groups.

X.12.4 Agriculture

The main source of livelihood in Char Kent is Agriculture and animal husbandry. Dry farming could be observed in the district and substantial area is devoted to pasture land. Animal husbandry plays a vital role in the economy of the district. According to the estimates of the Department of Agriculture only about 1,000 to 1,500 ha. are devoted for wheat cultivation. Cultivation of other crops is marginal. Neither marketing facilities nor agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilizer,and machinery are available in Char Kent.

X.12.5 Other Economic Activities

Carpet weaving and handicrafts are part of most households activities.

X.12.6 Transport and Road Conditions

There is no road network within the district. Trucks, tractors, carts and animals are the main means of transport in the district.

X.12.7 Education

Presently, Char Kent has no formal schooling system other than Madrassas. General education system is completely disrupted due to the war and reports indicate that 23 school buildings have been completely destroyed during the last decade.

X.12.8 Health

Health facilities are very poor in Char Kent. In Sher Shar village, one clinic is reported to be functioning attended by one doctor under the control of Wahdat.

Streams and springs are the only sources of drinking water.

X.13 KESHENDEH DISTRICT

X.13.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Keshendeh
Mean Altitude:	720 meters
Land Area:	1,802 sq.km.
Population (1990):	52,852
Population Density:	29 per sq. km.
No. of Villages:	220 main villages, 16 sub-villages
Political Parties:	Jamiat, Hezbi, Wahdat
Main Economic Activity:	Animal husbandry
Other Activities:	Carpet weaving and other handicrafts

X.13.2 Background

Keshendeh is a mountainous district located about 90 km. south of Mazar, surrounded by Jowzjan province in the south and west, Samangan province in the east, and Shulgareh in the north.

X.13.3 Population

The estimated population in Keshendeh is 52,000 (1990 UNIDATA estimate). Keshendeh has the highest number of villages, comprising nearly 1/4th of the total number of villages in the province. Knowledgeable sources estimate that about 20 percent of the population in Keshendeh are nomads, and the main tribes are Pashtuns, Kandaharis and Hazaras.

X.13.4 Agriculture

Only a limited area is devoted for cultivation, and animal husbandry is the dominant activity in the district. As a result of the mountainous topography, Keshendeh receives relatively higher rainfall compared to the other districts in the province. Nomads raise a substantial number of livestock, especially Karakul sheep. In the spring each year nomads migrate towards Bamyan valley for grazing their livestock and return with their flocks at the end of the summer. In addition to the livestock, 1,500 ha. are devoted to wheat, sesame and mustard cultivation.

Carpet weaving and other wool related handicrafts are practiced in some places in the district as part of household activities.

X.13.5 Transport and Road Conditions

Out of the total of 90 km. road in the district, only a 20 km. section from Mazar to Keshendeh is ashpalted; the rest is graveled. Road beyond Shulgareh is insecure.

X.13.6 Education

Education is limited to Madrassas.

X.13.7 Health

A clinic is reported to be functioning in Baloch Zary village under the control of Hezbi Islami, and has 3 doctors, 2 nurses , and 2 para medical personnel.

XI. RESETTLEMENT NEEDS AND PLANING IMPLICATIONS

A brief summary of the findings presented in the report current problems and constraints, ongoing and planned projects/programs and further suggestions and recommendations concerning rehabilitation and reconstruction of the economy of Balkh province are discussed here.

XI.1 Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Agriculture, including animal husbandry, is the dominant sector in the province. The province of Balkh (and the other northern province of Samangan, Jowzjan, and Faryab) form the second most important agricultural region of the country. However, this sector has suffered severely due to both the direct and the indirect consequences of the prolonged armed conflict.

As the preceding account on agriculture shows that there has been a drastic decline in the crop area and production during 1979 - 1990, mainly due to the following reasons:

- destruction of and damages caused to the irrigation facilities and lack of proper maintenance,
- displacement of farm families within and outside Afghanistan,
- shortage of farm labor, especially during tilling and harvesting seasons,
- shortage of farm power (including farm animal and tractors),
- shortage of other agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, credit and improved seeds,
- inadequate extension services,
- problems of transportation and marketing,
- crop damage due to locust and sunn pest infestation, and
- poor rainfall in recent years.

The province of Balkh once having a surplus of cereals (about 25,000 mt. until early 1970's) now finds it hard to feed its own population mainly due to the factors mentioned above. During the last few year the adverse effects on agriculture has become

more evident, with the loss of cereal production leading to shortages and out migration of farm families. Food prices have been rising sharply and in general are comparable with food prices in Kabul.

XI.1.1 Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Projects/Programs in Agriculture:

Rehabilitation of agriculture, including irrigation and livestock, is of crucial importance for resettlement of the returning population, development of industries, handicrafts and rural infrastructure, creation of employment opportunities and long term development planning. Major rehabilitation programs and activities in the agriculture sector executed by both national and international organizations are listed below. The budget where information is available is given in brackets.

By Government Agencies

- Digging of deep well for animal (Afs. 2,000,000).
- Construction of storage for the silkworm cocoons (Afs. 5,000,000).
- Construction of agencies for fertilizer company (Afs. 3,000,000).
- Rehabilitation of extension services units (Afs. 1,500,000).
- Rehabilitation of irrigation canals (Afs. 80,000,000).
- Preparation of rehabilitation scheme for irrigation facilities in the Northern Region of Afghanistan (Afs. 10,000,000 for first phase 1991).
- Distribution of 150 MT improved wheat seed, 845 MT cotton seed, 8,739 MT Urea fertilizer and 20 MT sulphur powder for vine trees during 1990/91 planting season.
- Campaign against locust and spraying of 75 tons of BHC.
- Campaign for sunn pest control on 50,000 jerbs of land.
- Construction of demonstration farms in an area of 50 jeribs.

By United Nations Agencies and NGOS:

FAO has undertaken measures to address the locust and sunn pest infestation problems through a large scale programme in the Northern provinces, including Balkh. For this purpose and other related activities, the integrated Plant Protection Plan has been prepared and sent for budgetary approval.

List of Food for Work Projects (FFW) in Balkh province 1990/91.

S.No.	District	Village	Date Commenced	Planned activity
1.	Char Bulq	Ahmadabad	23.05.90	Construction of road and bridge
2.	Balkh	Kal Mohad.	28.05.90	Building of school and clinic
3.	Dehadadi	Dehadadi	03.06.90	Graveling a road & cons. bridge
4.	Balkh	Quhltamore	27.06.90	Const. road Shulgareh-Djangali
5.	Char Kent	Charmala	15.07.90	Const. of 2 roads of 35 km.
6.	Shulgareh	Keshende	01.10.90	Depending of deep well
7.	Mazar	Kal Mohad.	26.12.91	Road repair
8.	Dowlatabad	Alam Kheel	26.12.91	Road repair
9.	Dowlatabad	Dowlatabad	26.12.90	Const. of a clinic
10.	Dowlatabad	Sardarabad	07.01.91	Road repair
11.	Dowlatabad	Sorkogonbad	08.01.91	Road repair
12.	Dowlatabad	Hasinbad	02.02.91	Canal rehabilitation
13.	Char Bulaq	Cho Chok	02.02.91	Road repair

Source: WFP, Mazar, 1991

Under UNDP funding FAO is also implementing a major project to rehabilitate the Ali Chopan Farm in order to produce improved seeds of wheat cotton and vegetables for distribution among the local farmers. A programme for animal vaccination has been completed in Dawlatabad by the Shelter Now International, and NGO plans are also underway to expand veterinary services, increase livestock, develop local agriculture, construct facilities for plant protection and establish three laboratories for cotton cultivation. A programme that aims to increase the local flocks of Karakul, a major export item prior

to the war, is also underway.

During January 1990 - June 1991, WFP-Mazar distributed 5,645 MT of wheat, 184 MT of sugar and 21 MT of cooking oil in various parts of the Balkh province. A number of WFP supported food-for-work (FFW) and food-for-Bazaar (FFB) projects were also initiated for rehabilitation of agriculture and irrigation facilities.

Further Needs/Requirements:

- Essential inputs including improved seeds and fertilizer need to be provided at a much larger scale than presently provides. Control of locust and sunn pest needs to be made more effective. Shortage of farm power need to be compensated.

- Rehabilitation of extension services centers in all districts needs to be undertaken.

- Rehabilitation/reconstruction of irrigation facilities is urgently needed.

- Veterinary services and clinics are needed at a much larger scale.

- Reforestation, fruit trees and poplar plantation programs need to be strengthened and expanded.

XI.2 Minig and Industries

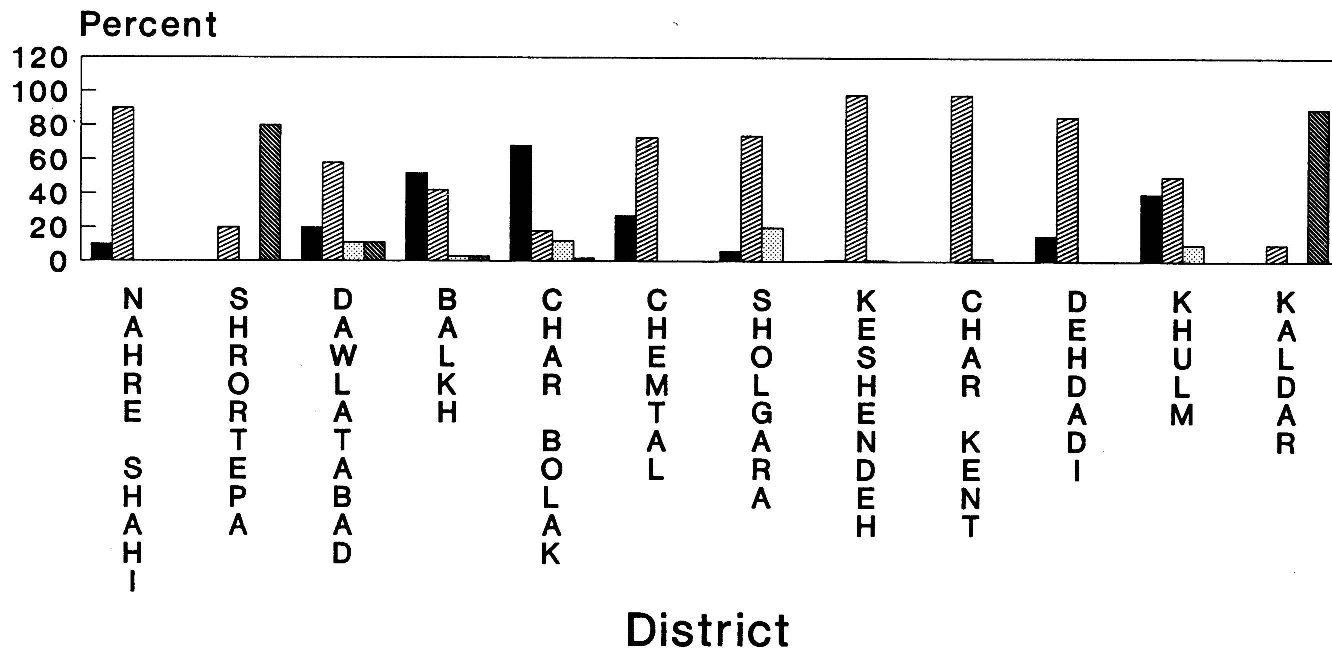
In Balkh province, mining and industrial activities form the second most important sector of the economy after agriculture. However, the existence of mineral resources has not yet been fully determined and the potential remains unexploited to a large degree. The extraction of salt, sulphur, quarts and livestones has been declining due to the war years. Many places are targeted for oil, gas, zinc and copper exploration. Major problems and constraints in this sector are the following:

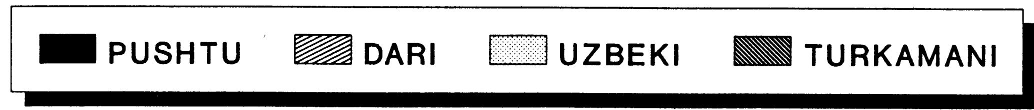
- Production of minerals like salt and sulphur has declined partly due to decline of activities in the agricultural sector.

- Due to non-availability of electricity in most parts of the province primitive methods of extraction are used.

- The industry is mostly state owned. Due to the inefficiency associated with state ownership and control most enterprises incur losses despite Government

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN VARIOUS DISTRICS OF BALKH PROVINCE





UNIDATA
Kabul, May 1991

subsidies and concessions.

- Industrial enterprises are also facing acute shortage of managerial and skilled workers. Even the pre-war level of managerial and operation personnel have not been maintained due to the causes associated with the war.

- The growth of these establishments has been further curtailed due to the aging of equipment, problems of its maintenance and replacement, and the shortage of energy. The problems related to the use of outdated machinery has been worsened due to the difficulties in obtaining spare parts and the loss of export earnings.

- Small scale industries and handicrafts have suffered from the rapid decline in agriculture and livestock products and the shortage of other raw materials.

Most of the above mentioned problems are directly or indirectly related to the damages and destruction caused by the war. Therefore, efforts to rehabilitate, reconstruct and develop this sector would require:

- peace and stability as pre-condition,

- rehabilitation of agriculture,

- return of the externally and internally displaced population,

- rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, including the public utility services,

- improvement in the conditions facilitating movement of people, goods and services,

- reordering of public investment priorities and encouragement of private sector production and investment, including privatization of some existing industrial establishments,

- expansion of production capacity in fertilizer and power plants (for which abundant supply of natural gas exists).

XI.2.1 Ongoing and Planned Projects/Programs

To overcome some of the above mentioned problems and constraints, a number of ongoing and planned projects and programs by both national and international agencies are under way. A brief description of those projects is given below:

By Government Agencies - Planned for 1991/92

- Establishment of Industrial Park in Balkh, with assistance expected from India.

- Feasibility study of tannery plant in Mazar-i-Sharif, with assistance from Bulgaria.

- Improvement and expansion of electricity network in Mazar-i-Sharif city.

- Extension of 110 kv transmission line between Mazar-i-Sharif and Sheberghan.

- Survey for gasification of Balkh.

- Completion of the feasibility study of a second chemical fertilizer plant.

Project by the United Nations Agencies:

Since 1990, United Nations' assistance to promote Afghanistan industrial development has been confined to the survival of selected small-scale industrial activities. Two UNDP/UNIDO projects namely (1) Extension Service for Industrial Saris and (2) Reconstruction of the Private Sector have been proposed with a total budget of US$ 841,500. Under the first project an assessments was carried out of small enterprises to determine the scope for improving their productivity, design and management. In the initial phase of the second project, establishment of an industrial Sari in Mazar has been approved and an assessment of the needs of 50 enterprises, including food preservation services, footwear manufactures and tanneries, was completed. Subsequently, several investment workshops were held for small entrepreneurs and a proposal for the establishment of revolving fund to finance small industries was prepared.

XI.3 Physical Infrastructure

In Balkh province roads are the principal mode of transportation for both internal and international traffic. A considerable amount of transportation depends on animal power especially in the rural areas. Decline in the number of animals is creating difficulties in transportation as well as in farm operation.

Repair of damaged roads and construction of feeder roads are essential for the delivery of food aid, farm to market connections and rehabilitation of rural-urban infrastructure.

The airport, though meant for domestic civil aviation, has been used mainly for military purposes. Besides the runway and other airport facilities require repair. For this

purpose, the Government is its plan for 1991/92 has allocated US$100,000 from Indian assistance and Afs. 70 million from the development budget for the improvement of the Balkh airport facilities.

In addition an amount of Afs. 43 million is allocated for rehabilitation for Mazar-Nayibabad road and maintenance of another 6 km road in the rural area.

WFP-Mazar has been assisting in various road construction projects though its FFB and FFW programs. The UNDP/OPS has initiated road rehabilitation and reconstruction through an integrated rural development programme.

Despite the increasing importance of Balkh province, particularly Mazar-i-Sharif city, telecommunication facilities and services remain highly inadequate.

XI.4 Water Supply and Sanitation

Water supply and sanitation are major problems throughout the province, especially in densely populated urban areas. In Mazar-i-Sharif the water supply system is over 20 year old. Equipments are poorly maintained. Availability of water per person is very low. There is no proper arrangement for solid waste disposal.

There is an urgent need for improved water supply network and sanitation in Mazar, Balkh, Dehdadi, Nahri Shahi and Kholm. Rural areas completely lack safe drinking water supply.

In 1991/92 the government has planned some rehabilitation work related to water supply in Mazar. It involves digging of six semi-deep wells and installation of pumps in a number of schools, mosques and clinics.

UNDP/OPS has been studying water supply and sanitation situation in Mazar and the surrounding areas. A number of rehabilitation/reconstruction activities have been suggested. A water supply and sanitation programme is under way with the assistance of UNDP/OPS, WFP and UNOCA. However, the problems of water supply and sanitation are serious and the scope of ongoing and planned programs falls much short of solving the growing problems in this area.

XI.5 HEALTH

Health sector is also one of the worst affected area in Balkh province. Qualified medical personnel have left the country, training facilities have closed down, medical infrastructure has been badly damaged and health condition of the people has worsened.

The disease control and prevention programs have also been severely affected. Prevalence of some diseases has assumed epidemic proportions. It is therefore, not surprising that the mortality rates, especially among children, has risen.

XI.5.1 On-going and Planned Programs/Projects

UNICEF health improvement activities:

The UNICEF based in Mazar-i-Sharif plays an important role in the improvement of health conditions, particularly of mothers and children, in the northern part of Afghanistan. UNICEF has implemented relief and rehabilitation activities on immunization, health education of mother and child, nutrition, disease prevention water supply and sanitation and medical supplies. Some of the activities carried out during the period commencing 1 December 1990 to 28 February 1991 under this programme are given below:

Nutritional screening programme:

In the city of Mazar-i-Sharif and Shir Abad, which are under the Government control, 17,805 children (7,540 less than 1 year old and 10,265 between 2 to 5 years old) were checked by the medical personnel. Out of them 153 children were detected with Acute Respiratory Infected (ARI) and another 236 were found to be malnourised; all of them were referred for further investigation and given medical treatment. Another 350 needy mothers have been provided with blankets. The entire group was given vitamin A supplies and a kit containing the wheat soybean blend biscuits (WSB). Needy children in the areas of Shulgareh and Kholm, which are not under the Government control were provided with 6 months ration of WSB.

Disease preventive and vaccination:

Out of the children who were screened out by the mobile medical team in Mazar-i-Sharif, Shirabad and Kholm, number of children were vaccinated against DPT, BCG and measles (see below).

Number of Children Vaccinated

Area	DPT/POLIO		BCG.		Measles
	(I)	(II)	(III)		
Mazar and Shirabad	3,173	1,906	1,878	3,091	1,589
Kholm	1,011	242	160	1,210	478
Total	4,184	2,148	2,038	4,301	2,167

Source: UNICEF, Mazar, 1991

Medical supplies: The hospitals and clinics in the Government and non-government control areas have been provided with 33 and 25 medical kits, respectively, which includes Tetracycline, Ampicillin, Chloroquine, Folic Acid, Uflin, Nystatin, Dicilin, Aspirin, Cholorapheuical, etc. The medicines were donated by the Soviet Union.

Kindergarten feeding: The children of 40 kindergartens in Mazar and Hairatan have been provided one month ration of high protein biscuits and milk powder for the year 1990.

Establishment of cold chain store: This has been established in the base hospital in Mazar-i-Sharif to store the required vaccines to meet the needs of the northern provinces.

In addition the following projects are also being inplemened.

- WHO/UNICEF aided project to build 50 bed hospital in Kholm: During 1990 1994.

- **Water supply scheme of Mazar-i-Sharif city:** UNDP aided project to expand the existing water supply system by utilizing water from Balkh river.

- **Rural welfare project:** Supply of medicine to 3 health centers to take care of 7,000 people and the establishment of 2 nutrition and home-economy centers for 50 families in Mazar-i-Sharif.

- **Training of vaccinators under EPI programme:** 65 vaccinators were trained under this programme during the course of 1991.

- **Training of doctors under IDD programme:** 25 doctors were given an intensive

training on Iodene Deficiency Disorder (IDD) and control of diarrhea.

- **Sanitation control programme**: Assistance has been given to the municipality of Mazar for efficient collection of garbage in the city.

- **Comprehensive rehabilitation of water supply:** Assistance provided to Mazar and Balkh cities for the improvement of water supply, by supplying 50 hand pupms to the city of Mazar and surrounding villages. It is expected that there will be at least 250 beneficiaries per pumps.

Annex. A

STUDIES IN AGRICULTURE AND METHODOLOGICAL LIMITATIONS

Systematic data on agriculture in Afghanistan has been absent even in pre-war days. The Afghan Government statistics available, especially for the period of war, are not considered to be much credible. The second source of information is the Agricultural Survey of Afghanistan, conducted by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), with the central objective of determining the effects of war on the country's agricultural sector. The SCA claims that it was "the largest, most wide ranging and most comprehensive survey of agriculture ever conducted in Afghanistan in peace or war" (SCA,1988,p.4). While the claim is intended to stress on the merits of the initiative taken, it also underscores the dearth of efforts aimed at studying a sector which has always been most crucial to the country's economy. Just how much ground still remains to be covered could be judged from the limited scope of the SCA survey; in the authors' own words, the study "does not attempt to present aspects of the whole picture of agriculture such as total area farmed, total production of wheat (and other crops), or any other kind of a census" (SCA,1988,p.3). What is available are the factors affecting the farm family and "trends in production, means of production, farm resources, and physical farm inputs which have occurred over the last ten years" (SCA,1988,p.4).

To begin with, it would be necessary to establish the limitations of the SCA study, so that the parameters are clearly defined within which the findings must be interpreted. The study had aimed to cover all the provinces but, unfortunately, could not cover Kandahar as some problems were encountered during the process which resulted in the rejection of all the interview forms. The results presented by the study for that province are based on interviews with Afghan refugees from the province in Pakistan, and the authors want the readers to treat those results "with caution" (SCA,1988,p.45,f.n.1).

The survey claims to cover about 1 percent of the farming households, based on estimates that the total rural population inside Afghanistan was 7 million, the refugees in Pakistan and Iran were 5 million, adding up to 12 million as the country's total rural population. The number of households are calculated to be 1.2 million, on the basis of the survey's finding that the household size was 10. As the total number of interviews included in the tabulations were 11,000 (including 1,301 community interviews), the sample constituted nearly 1 percent (exactly 0.92 percent) of the total farm households. It has been earlier shown that the household size of 10 was on a rather higher side, and that the figure of 8.5 would be more nearer to the reality (see Chapter II:Population). If that size is accepted, the number of farm families would increase to 1.41 million. Further, the number of interviews conducted with individual farmers is actually 9,699, as the community interviews were conducted mainly to assess the qualitative aspects and do not form part of the tabulations presented in the report. In this way, the actual sample coverage comes to 0.69

percent of the total farm households which may not be sufficient to give a representative picture.

The SCA study does not provide the distribution of sample with respect to provinces. It is not known that if the distribution corresponded to the number of farm owners (or farm households) in a province. That, however, appears doubtful as out of the total of 20,000 individual farmer interviews conducted, only 9,699 were retained; the rest of 10,301 interviews had to be discarded being sub-standard. It is not known if some provinces were over-represented in the 51 percent discarded interviews. In fact, that would almost certainly be the case as, firstly, the proportion of discarded interviews is very large and, secondly, the discarded interviews could not have been evenly distributed among the provinces. It leads to the disturbing conclusion that some (or most?) of the provincial "trends" presented may not be representative.

Organizing the survey was a commendable achievement on part of the SCA, as conducting that exercise in war time must have posed many obstructions. In fact, the First Report of the SCA describes some of the difficulties in data collection, where the process had to be suspended or carried on in adverse, even hostile, conditions (SCA,1988,p.11). All that, however, leads to inescapable doubts about the accuracy of the data collected.

Another methodological aberration seems to be to rely too heavily on the memory of individual farmers over the time span of a decade. Within the specified ten years, questions were asked relating to the five years of 1978, 1980, 1985, 1986 and 1987. In general, one would need extra-ordinary memory to remember all the fine details which have been asked in the interviews. Farmers, in particular, are not known for keeping account of such details. In fact, the authors of the survey have tried to generate a time series data in a very peculiar fashion, which one would find hard to accept even in a war situation.

Keeping the above limitations in view, only selected and broad conclusions from the SCA survey are presented here, which may also be viewed with some reservation. The results presented here mainly draw on the part of the survey related to farmers in Afghanistan, and only in cases where significant differences between the two categories exist a reference to the refugee part of the survey is made.

Annex: B

NGO PROGRAMMES IN BALKH

I. ONGOING PROJECTS:

District	Sector	Agency	Funded by	Activity
Most of Districts	Agriculture	SCA	SCA	Agricultural survey & plant protection in most of the districts.
Balkh	Education	SCA	SCA	Training of 160 teachers in 28 schools, 3 months courses for 60 teachers.
Balkh	Health	MSH	AID	5 BHWs in Dah Wali, Shinbangai, Qarya Aftab, Ghulam Jan & Palaw Posh
Char Bolak	Health	MSH	AID	1 M.D., 1 Med. Tech. 4 Rooms 4 Beds
	Health	MSH	AID	7 BHWs in different villages
	Agriculture	SCA	SIDA	Dist. of 4 MT PS-85 wheat seed + 8 MT fertilizer (1991) & multiplication 1 MT Pirsbak-85+2 MT fertilizer (1992)
	Education	UNO	AID	3 Schools in Toghanchi, Dagh Jabeen & Korachi villages.
Char Kant	Health	AVICEN	Donor	EPI/vaccination: 11,700 people are covered in 3 villages.
	Health	IMC	AID	Clinic building
	Helath	MSH	AID	2 Medical Technicians
	Health	MSH	AID	6 BHWs in Tandoorak (3), Aobilaq (2) & Shorbulaq.
	Education	UNO	AID	3 Schools in Qara, Char Mahala & Khowaja Bandal villages.
	Education	SCA	SCA	6 Shcools, 26 Teachers, 600 students.
Chemtal	Health	MSH	AID	1 MD, 5 medical Technicians,1 dental technician asst.,1 despenser, 1 lab tech. asst.,1 X-Ray tech. asst.- pharmacy/dental/lab/OPD.
	Health	MSH	AID	1 M.D., 1 medical technician.
	Health	MSH	AID	8 BHWs in Pashmak Qala,Naw Shar, Arabzai & Alburz.
	Health	MSH	AID/UNIC	EPI/vaccination: Covered from Sholera (See Sholgera for details).
	Education	UNO	AID	1 School in Jar Qala village

District	Sector	Agency	Funded by	Activity
Dehdadi	Health	MSH	AID	2 BHWs in Dehdadi.
Dowlatabad	Health	MSH	AID	1 M.D. in Surkh Gundab village.
	Health	MSH	AID	3 Med. Tech., 1 First Aider, Dental Tech., Asst. Dental in Sadrabad village.
	Health	MSH	AID	6 BHWs in Deh Hashtan (2), Shingulabad, Daishidan, Qarya Bedogh & Taligak.
	Health	MSH	AID/UNIC	EPI/vaccination: covered from Shulgera.(See Shulgera for details)
	Education	UNO	AID	5 schools in Qarchigak, Qarya gajala, Gulabad, Zadian & Shikh Mughilan villages.
Keshend	Health	MSH	AID	2 Med. Tech., 1 First Aider, 1 Dental Tech. Ast., 3 Rooms, 2 Beds.
	Health	MSH	AID	3 Medical Tech., 1 Nurse in Sukhte Ulya village.
	Health	MSH	AID	6 BHWs, in Togh, Qarabai Dawum, Aq Kaprak, Sokhta, Keshind & Zikertanj villages.
	Health	MSH	AID/UNIC	EPI/Vaccination: Covered from Shulgera.(See Shulgera for details).
	Education	SCA	SCA	10 Schools, 17 Teachers, 1,700 students in Aq Kupruk village.
Mazar Sharif	Health	MSH	AID	4 Med.Tech.,1 Dental Tech. Asst., 6 Rooms, Dental in Marmul village.
	Health	MSH	AID	2 Med.tech., 1 Nurse, 8 Rooms,6 Beds in Shadyan village.
	education	UNO	AID	1 School in Dubail village.
Nahr Shahi	Health	AVICEN	Donor	EPI/Vacc: 22178 people are covered in 18 villages.
	Education	MA-UK	MA-UK	1 School in Marmal village.
	Helath	MSH	AID	7 BHWs in Tandurak, Siagarwadni, Sholgar & Marmal.
	Health	MSH	AID/UNIC	EPI/Vaccination: Covered from Sholgera (See Shogera for Details).
	Education	UNO	AID	3 Schools in Shadian, Waiblaq & Shorbalq villages.

III. POPULATION

The first ever population census of Afghanistan was conducted in 1979 under very difficult conditions. Because of the circumstances prevailing then, only about 60 percent of the country was surveyed. Since 1979 no other census or a survey has been conducted. In the absence of comprehensive studies and precise counts, a number of projections and estimates for population are being made by various agencies such as the Ministry of Central Statistics (previously known as the Central Statistics Office, CSO), UNHCR, and others. Although references are made to these studies and estimates, the data and information concerning the population of Balkh province in this report is based on a recent estimate by UNIDATA in "Afghanistan: Population Estimates by Province, District and Sub-District", published in April 1991.

III.I Population Size, Structure and Distribution

Table III.1 provides data on the size and distribution of population of Balkh province by district in 1979 and 1990. It should be mentioned that the figures show only the settled population and the nomad population is not included. Refugees are included in the estimates.

The total settled population of Balkh in 1979 census was shown to be 630,513. Out of this 78.5 per cent was rural and 21.5 percent urban population. The urban population was mainly concentrated in the cities of Mazar, Balkh, Kholm and Dehadadi, while the rural population was scattered over more than 990 villages.

The UNIDATA estimates show that in 1990 the settled population of Balkh province increased to 779,747. The most densely populated areas are the provincial capital Mazar (2,663 per square kilometer), followed by the districts of Balkh (180), Dehdadi (173) and Kholm (94).

The sex ratio of the population of Balkh is 51 males to 49 females in rural areas and 52 males to 48 females in urban areas. The UNIDATA estimates of rural-urban population by sex in 1990 are given in Table III.2.

District	Sector	Agency	Funded by	Activity
Sholgera	Health	DCAR		Dental clinic: 1 paramedic.
	Health	AVECIN	Donor	20,815 persons are covered in 14 villages. 10 vaccinators from VSF.
	Health	IMC	AID	1 MD, 3 Mid-Level, 1 Dentist, 1 Lab Tech., 7 Vaccinators: OPD/Vaccination/Dental/Lab in Babaewaz area.
	Health	LBI	LBI	25 Bed Hospital: ? specialist, 3 MD, 9 tech., 10 nurses-Lab/X-Ray, 100 pts. OPD/day & Surgical/Medical/Orthopedic services.
	Health	MSH	AID	Area health comm/admin. centre: 1 fiscal manager/1 procurement off., 2 storkeepers,1 typist, 1 admin., 5 others.
Keshend	Health	MSH	AID	2 Med. Tech., 1 First Aider, 1 Dental Tech. Ast., 3 Rooms, 2 Beds.
	Health	MSH	AID	3 Medical Tech., 1 Nurse in Sukhte Ulya village.
	Health	MSH	AID	6 BHWs, in Togh, Qarabai Dawum, Aq Kaprak, Sokhta, Keshind & Zikertanj villages.
	Health	MSH	AID/UNIC	EPI/Vaccination: Covered from Shulgera.(See Shulgera for details) in Bachaq Waqadim area.
	Health	MSH	AID	3 MD/3 Med.Tech./1 BHW/1 Nurse/1 Helper/5 Tech.Asst./1 Despenser: 12 rooms, 10 beds, lab, dental, X-rays, pharmecy, surgery, OPD.
	Health	MSH	AID	13 BHWs in different villages.
	Health Train	MSH	AID	Women/under 5 care & health education in Qubchq Qadeem.
	Health	MSH	AID/UNIC	EPI/Vaccin:VSF: 2 vaccinators/MD supervisor/imm. techs- cover 92 vil. in 6 dist. in Balkh/Samangan
	Education	SCA	SCA	12 schools/65 teachers/1,900 students.
	Health	SCA	SCA	1 MD/12 mid-level/1 dental worker: OPD/Dental
	Health	SCA	SCA	2 Mid-level HWs:OPD in Toghanci village.
	Education	UNO	AID	11 schools in Markez Haq Kaprak, Qadim Bala, Qadim, Haq Kaprak, Toj, kushinda, Baba Aiwaz, tor Ghar & Dalan village.

District	Sector	Agency	Funded by	Activity
Shortapa	Health	MSH	AID	1 M.D., 1 Med. Tech. in Markez Shortapa.
	Health	MSH	AID	3 BHWs in Shortapa.
	Building	PRB	SEN	Mosque building with capicity for 200 prayers at a time- Local materials.
	Building	PRB	UNDP	Construction of 1 bridge(54 metres)- Cement+Brick in Ailtan village.
	Canal*	PRB	CIDA	Rehabilitation of 10 Km canal + reconstruction of its intak: irrigate 500 hactars.

* = Completed
Source: ACBAR DATABASE of NGO Activities, Fifth Edition, 1992.

NGOS WORK IN EACH DISTRICT

DISTRICT	NGOs
Balkh	MSH
Char Bolak	MSH, SCA, UNO
Char Kant	AVICEN, IMC, MSH, SCA, UNO
Chematal	MSH, UNO
Dehdadi	MSH
Dowlatabad	MSH, UNO
Keshende	MSH, SCA
Mazar Sharif	MSH, UNO
Nahr Shahi	AVICEN, MS-UK, MSH, UNO
Sholgara	AVICEN, DCAR, IMC, LBI, MSH, SCA, UNO
Shortapa	MSH, PRB

Source: ACBAR DATABASE of NGO Activities, Fifth Edition, April 1992

Annex: C

Names and Addresses of Important Departments and Agencies in Mazar-i-Sharif

	Department/Agency	Telephone
01	Afghan Fertilizer Co. Turkman Abad, Seberghan Road.	3340
02	Agricultural Bank, Aziz Abad Road.	2530
03	Agriculture Department, Turkman Abad, Seberghan Road.	2012
04	Air Port, Mazar	...
05	Agricultural Co-op., Turkman Abad, Sheberghan Road.	3092
06	Ariyana Afghan Airlines, Shadian West.	3206
07	Balkh University, Kabul Road, Mazar-i-Sharif	3547
08	Bank-i-Milli, Aziz Abad Road.	2814
09	Cartography Department, Darwazai Balkh, Dehdadi Road.	3198
10	Central Statistical Office, Baghi Hoozari.	2714
11	Chamber of Commerce, Mazar.	2365
12	Co-operative Department, Mazar-i-Sharif.	3005
13	Customs Department, Kabul Road, Mazar.	2518
14	Da Afghanistan Bank, Darwazi Balkh.	3514
15	Education Department, Baghi Hoozari.	2514
16	Electricity Department, Baghi Hoozari.	3303
17	Fertilizer & Electricity Factory, Dehdadi.	...
18	Gini Press, Darwazai Shardian, Mazar.	2431
19	Governors' Office Balkh, Mazar.	3014
20	Information and Cultural Department, Baghi Hoozari.	2014
21	Irrigation Department, Kabul Road.	3250
22	I.C.R.C., Seagerd Road.	3496
23	Land Reform Department, Seberghan Road.	3334
24	Light Industries Office, Shadian Road.	2752
25	Literacy Department, Balahesar, Mazar.	2431
26	Mazar Hotel, Darwazai Balkh, Dehdadi Road.	2307
27	Milli Buss Services, Kabul Road.	3357
28	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dehdadi Road.	3221
29	Monopoly Department, Nahri Toop.	2716
30	Muncipalty of Mazar-i-Sharif, Mazar	2312
31	Pedagogy, Seagerd Road.	2514
32	Police Department	2214
33	Public Health Department, Seagerd Road.	2296
34	Radio and Television Department, Baghi Hozoori.	2296
35	Refugee Affaris department, Kabul Road, Mazar.	3040

36	Silo Department, Shadian Road.	2552
37	Technicum Department of Balkh, Mazar	2213
38	Textile Department of Balkh, Sahdian Ulmarab Road.	3403
39	Traffic Department, Mazar	3519
40	UNICEF, Seagerad Road.	2786
43	UNOCA Office, Sai Dokan Road.	2215
44	Veterinary Sercives Department, Seagerd Road.	2048
45	Water Supply Department, Nahri Toop.	3157
46	Women Council of Balkh, Seagerd Road.	3356
47	World Food Programme Office, Shadian Road.	2771

Soruce: UNIDATA, 1990

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UNIDATA PROJECT OFFICES

KABUL

C/O UNDP
Shah Mahmoud Ghazni Wat
P.O.Box 5
Kabul
Afghanistan

Tel: 873-1-26051
Fax: 873-150-5152
Tlx: 281

PESHAWAR

C/O UNDP
Haji Gul Plaza
Jamrud Road
Peshawar
Pakistan

Tel: 521-45321/6
Fax: 521-42558
Tlx: 52 488

QUETTA

C/O UNDP
36 B-E Chaman Housing
Quetta
Pakistan

Tel: 81-73892-3
81-76790
Fax: 81-75433

Table III.I Size and Distribution of Population by District, 1979 and 1990

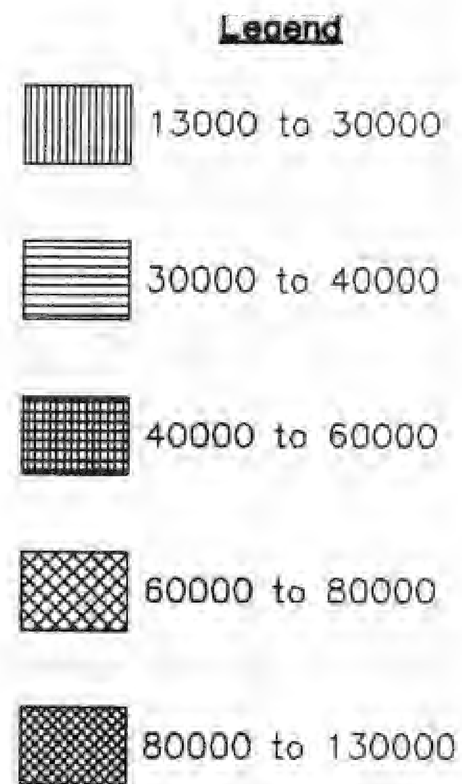
DISTRICT	1978/79 G.O.A CENSUS (1)	1990 UNDIATA (2)	Estimates C.S.O (3)
Balkh	69,949	86,505	83,700
Char Bulaq	45,522	56,296	54,300
Char Kent	29,506	36,490	35,200
Chemtal	49,963	61,789	59,600
Dehdadi	32,529	40,228	38,800
Dowlatabad	65,397	80,876	78,300
Keshendeh	42,737	52,852	51,000
Kholm	50,367	62,288	61,000
Kaldar	10,891	13,469	13,000
Mazar	103,372	127,839	137,600
Nahre Shahi	32,017	39,595	37,658
Shulgareh	73,280	90,624	87,700
Shur Tappeh	24,983	30,896	29,800
Total	630,513	779,747	768,200

Source: Figures in column (1) & (3) from GOA, Ministry of Centeral Statistics, 1991. Figure in column (2) from UNIDATA,1991.

Official estimates of the rural-urban population of Balkh province by sex and by districts are given in Table III.3. According to this information, 9 out of 14 districts in the province show no urban population at all, while in the remaining five districts the proportion of urban population varies from a maximum of 100 per cent in Mazar to a minimum of 8 per cent in Shulgareh. However, in comparison with 1979 the ratio of urban population has increased from 22 per cent to 28 per cent in 1990. A major part of this increase is assumed to be due to the migration of population from rural areas to the relatively more secure urban centers.

BALKH PROVINCE: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, 1990

(UNIDATA ESTIMATES)



UNIDATA, KABUL
DECEMBER 1990

Table III.2 Distribution of Population by Sex, 1990.

Settled Population	779,747	100%
Male	398,107	
Female	381,640	
Urban Population	217,400	28%
Male	113,048	
Female	104,352	
Rural Population	562,347	72%
Male	285,059	
Female	277,288	

Source: UNIDATA, 1991

Nomadic groups are present in different parts of Shulagaeh (hilly areas on both sides of river Balkhab), Keshendeh, Chemtal (Alburz mountains) and Marmol districts. During spring, commencing March, these groups start to leave the mountain areas and move towards the valleys in Bamyan with their livestock and return to their original places in Balkh in September, at the end of summer. It is believed that a considerable share of wool used for weaving of the best quality Afghan carpets is provided by these nomads who mostly raise sheep and goats. The main tribes among the nomads are known to be Hazaras, Khandharis and Tajiks.

Distribution of population of the province by major age categories and by districts is presented in Table III.4. Based on the proportion of persons in individual age categories, the UNIDATA estimates indicate that in 1990 children below age 5 were about 19.6 percent of the total settled population. Number of children within the age group 5-14 years account for about 26 percent of the population. People in the age category 15-64 (roughly speaking, the working age) is estimated to be about 395,331 persons, or 51 percent of the population. Another 3 percent are estimated to be aged 65 years and older.

Table III.3 Urban and Rural Population by Sex and District, 1990

District	(thousands)								
	Total			Urban			Rural		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
Balkh	83.7	43.0	40.7	8.8	4.6	4.2	74.9	38.4	36.5
Char Bulaq	54.3	27.8	26.5	-	-	-	54.3	27.8	26.5
Char Kent	35.2	18.0	17.2	-	-	-	35.2	18.0	17.2
Chemtal	59.6	30.6	29.0	-	-	-	59.6	30.6	29.0
Dehdadi	38.8	19.9	18.9	-	-	-	38.8	19.9	18.9
Dowlatabad	78.3	40.2	38.1	7.5	3.9	3.6	70.8	36.3	34.5
Keshendeh	51.0	26.2	24.8	-	-	-	51.0	26.2	24.8
Kholm	61.0	31.5	29.5	34.4	16.5	17.9	26.6	13.6	13.0
Kaldar	13.0	6.7	6.3	-	-	-	13.0	6.7	6.3
Mazar	137.6	72.1	65.5	137.6	72.1	65.6	-	-	-
Nahre Shahi	30.2	15.5	14.7	-	-	-	30.2	15.5	14.7
Marmol	8.0	4.1	3.9	-	-	-	8.0	4.1	3.9
Shulgareh	87.7	44.9	42.9	7.2	3.6	3.6	80.5	41.3	39.2
Shur Tappeh	29.8	15.3	14.5	-	-	-	29.8	15.3	14.5
Total	768.2	395.8	372.4	195.5	102.1	93.4	572.7	293.7	279.0

Source: GOA, Mazar, Central Statistics Office, 1990

The Government sources indicate that in 1988/89, the working age population (15-59 years) in the province consisted of 259,200 persons (81.3%). Of this 92% (35% of total population) were considered economically active. According to the Government sources agricultural labor force accounted for over 63 percent (164,810 persons) of the total manpower, and about 70 percent of the economically active population.

Table III.4 Distribution of Population by Major Age Categories and District, 1990

District	1990 Settled Population	Age Category			
		0 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 64	64+
Balkh	86,505	16,955	22,924	43,858	2,768
Char Bulaq	56,295	11,034	14,918	28,542	1,801
Char Kent	36,490	7,152	9,670	18,500	1,168
Chemtal	61,789	12,111	16,374	31,327	1,977
Dehdadi	40,228	7,885	10,660	20,396	1,287
Dowlatabad	80,876	15,852	21,432	41,004	2,588
Keshendeh	52,852	10,359	14,006	26,796	1,691
Kholm	62,287	12,208	16,506	31,580	1,993
Kaldar	13,469	2,640	3,569	6,829	431
Mazar	127,841	25,059	33,877	64,814	4,091
Nahre Shahi	39,596	7,761	10,493	20,075	1,267
Shulgareh	90,623	17,762	24,015	45,946	2,900
Shur Tappeh	30,896	6,056	8,187	15,644	989
Total	779,747	152,834	206,631	395,331	24,951

Source: UNIDATA, 1991

III.2 Ethnicity

The major ethnic group in Balkh province is of Tajiks, comprising over half of the population and majority of the population in districts Shulgareh, Dehdadi, Nahre Shahi, Chemtal and Dawlatabad. The other significant ethnic group is of Pushtuns who are scattered throughout the province, but concentrated in the districts of Mazar, Balkh, Kholm and Char Bulaq. Significant numbers of Uzbeks are living in Dawlatabad, Shur Tapeh, Char Bulaq, Kholm and Kaldar. Turkmans make the majority in Kaldar and Shur Tappeh, and have a significant presence in Dawlatabad and Char Bulaq. Hazaras mainly live in Mazar, Marmol and Chemtal.

III.3 Refugees and Internally Displaced Population

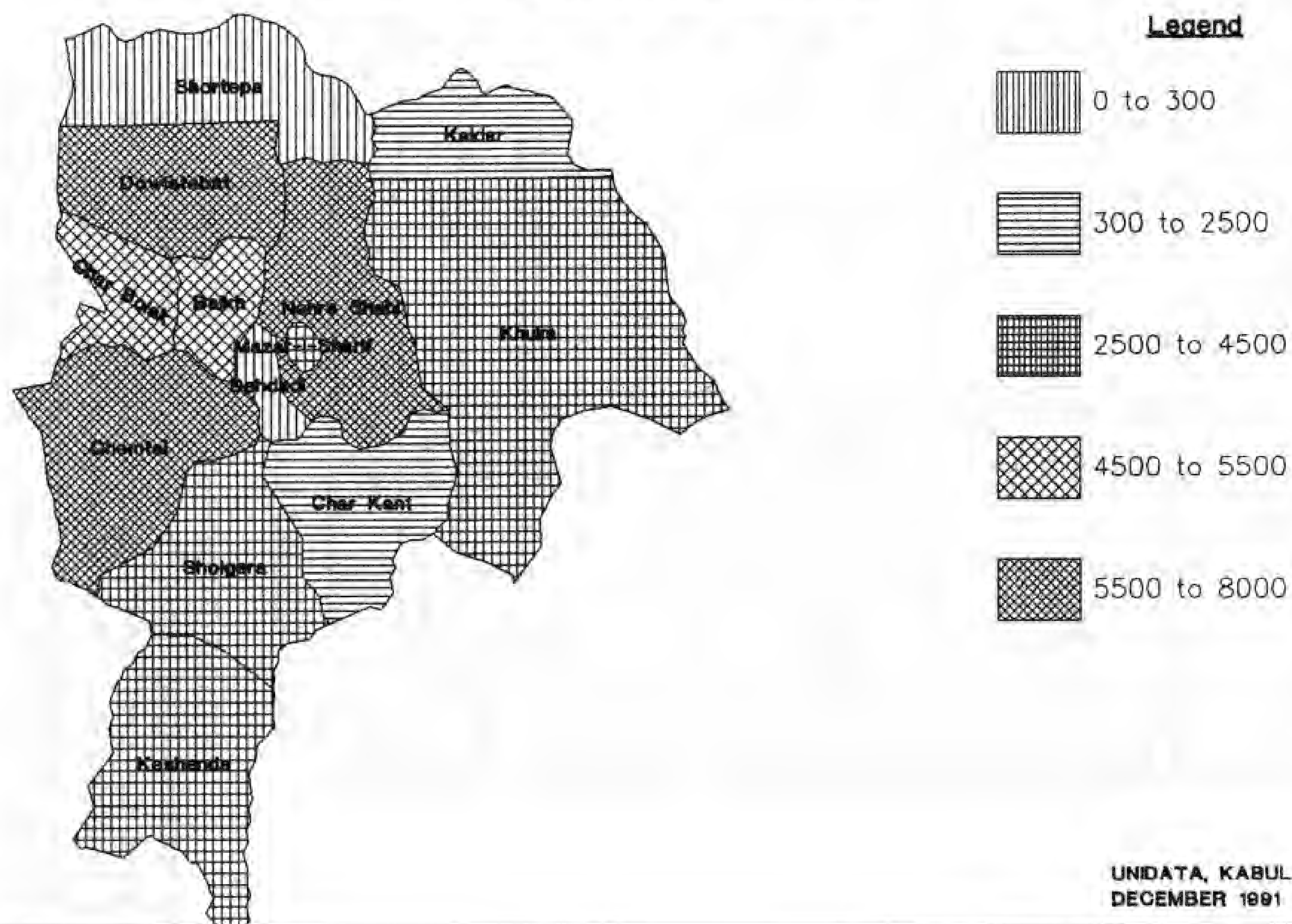
As a result of over a decade long conflict, a large number of people have been displaced. They have either left the country or moved away from towns and villages in search of secured shelter and livelihood. However, the number of refugees from Balkh, compared to that of other provinces of Afghanistan,is relatively insignificant comprising only about 6 percent of the provincial population. According to the Refugee Origin Survey conducted by the UNHCR in Pakistan, 44,583 people from Balkh province are living in refugee camps located in Pakistan and another 2,600 are living in Iran. The majority of the refugees from Balkh are believed to be Turkomani and Uzbeks who are settled in camps in Mainwali in Punjab. As they face several difficulties, i.e. unemployment and restrictions on their movement, observers predict that these refugees will be among the first to return to Balkh.

Table III.5 shows the number of refugees in Pakistan and Iran and the estimated settled population inside the province. The 2,600 refugees in Iran have orginated exclusively from Keshendeh district while the refugees in Pakistan have come from a number of other districts.

The UNHCR, under its Voluntary Repatriation Programme, is assisting the refugees to return to their places of origin. Transport and food are provided to help the refugees settle down in their places of origin. The UNCHR is operating a Peace Guest House in Mazar where the refugees spend a few days before they are transferred to their villages. About 11,660 returnees from both Pakistan and Iran have reportedly stayed at the Peace Guest House during 1990, of which 1,894 are residents of Balkh provinces (see Table III.6).

BALKH PROVINCE: DISTRIBUTION OF REFUGEES ACCORDING TO THEIR ORIGIN, 1990

(UNHCR - UNIDATA) ESTIMATES



I. INTRODUCTION

I.1 Objectives

The socio-economic profile of Balkh province is prepared within the scope of overall development objectives and the immediate objectives of the UNIDATA project, which are the following:

i) to provide background information concerning pre-war and present socio-economic conditions,

ii) to assess the effects of war in qualitative and quantitative terms on various sectors of the economy at the district and the provincial level,

iii) to develop an operational data base for provincial and sectoral planning, and

iv) to develop a framework for rehabilitation and reconstruction planning and programme specifications.

I.2 Methodology

To achieve the above objectives and fulfill the project planning and formulation needs in the context of Afghanistan's rehabilitation and reconstruction, UNIDATA had planned comprehensive field surveys. Detailed questionnaire consisting of 14 sub-questionnaires for the survey was designed, pre-tested, revised and finalized in early April 1990. However, under the prevailing security constraints a field based detailed socio-economic survey was not possible. Such a survey would have required relatively stable conditions to serve the purposes of sample selection, data collection, sufficient time for data analysis and adequate financing.

In view of those limitations, UNIDATA decided to organize a reconnaissance type of survey leading to area-specific sectoral assessment of the current situation. An abridged questionnaire was designed addressing the most pressing multi-sectoral issues related to the effects of the long drawn conflict on population, refugee movement, agriculture, food situation, industry, housing, water supply, infrastructure, education, health and other social services sectors. The issues included were determined on the basis of the defined objectives and in consultation with the UN organizations involved in the rehabilitation/reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan. Due to adverse security conditions, however, the survey could not be implemented in some provinces at the level of locality and in a number of cases, at the district level. In such cases it was completed by gathering socio-economic data and information through both primary and secondary sources. The background information on the province, such as physical features, pre-war conditions of

Table III.5 Number of Refugees in Pakistan and Iran, and Population by District

District	Population 1990	Number of Refugees in		Population without refugees
		Pakistan	Iran	
Balkh	86,505	5,629	-	81,226
Char Bulaq	56,296	5,042	-	51,524
Char Kent	36,490	308	-	36,182
Chemtal	61,789	7,823	-	53,966
Dehdadi	40,228	37	-	40,191
Dowlatabad	80,876	7,896	-	72,980
Keshendeh	52,852	-	2,600	50,252
Kholm	62,288	2,950	-	59,338
Kaldar	13,469	316	-	13,153
Mazar	127,839	4,381	-	123,458
Nahre Shahi	39,595	6,906	-	32,689
Shulgareh	90,624	3,295	-	87,329
Shur Tappeh	30,896	-	-	30,896
Total	779,747	4,223	2,600	732,924

Source: UNIDATA, 1991

Although the exact number of internally displaced persons is not known, it is believed to be greater than the number of refugees from Balkh province. Informed sources estimate that over 300,000 people presently reside in Mazar city alone. With Mazar's population estimated to be 100,000 before the war, this implies that a significant proportion of the rest of 200,000 persons constitute the migrants who came into the city during 1979-1990. There has been no survey or study to support this claim.

It should be also mentioned that there are two types of internally displaced persons in the province: those from within the province, and those from other provinces of Afghanistan.

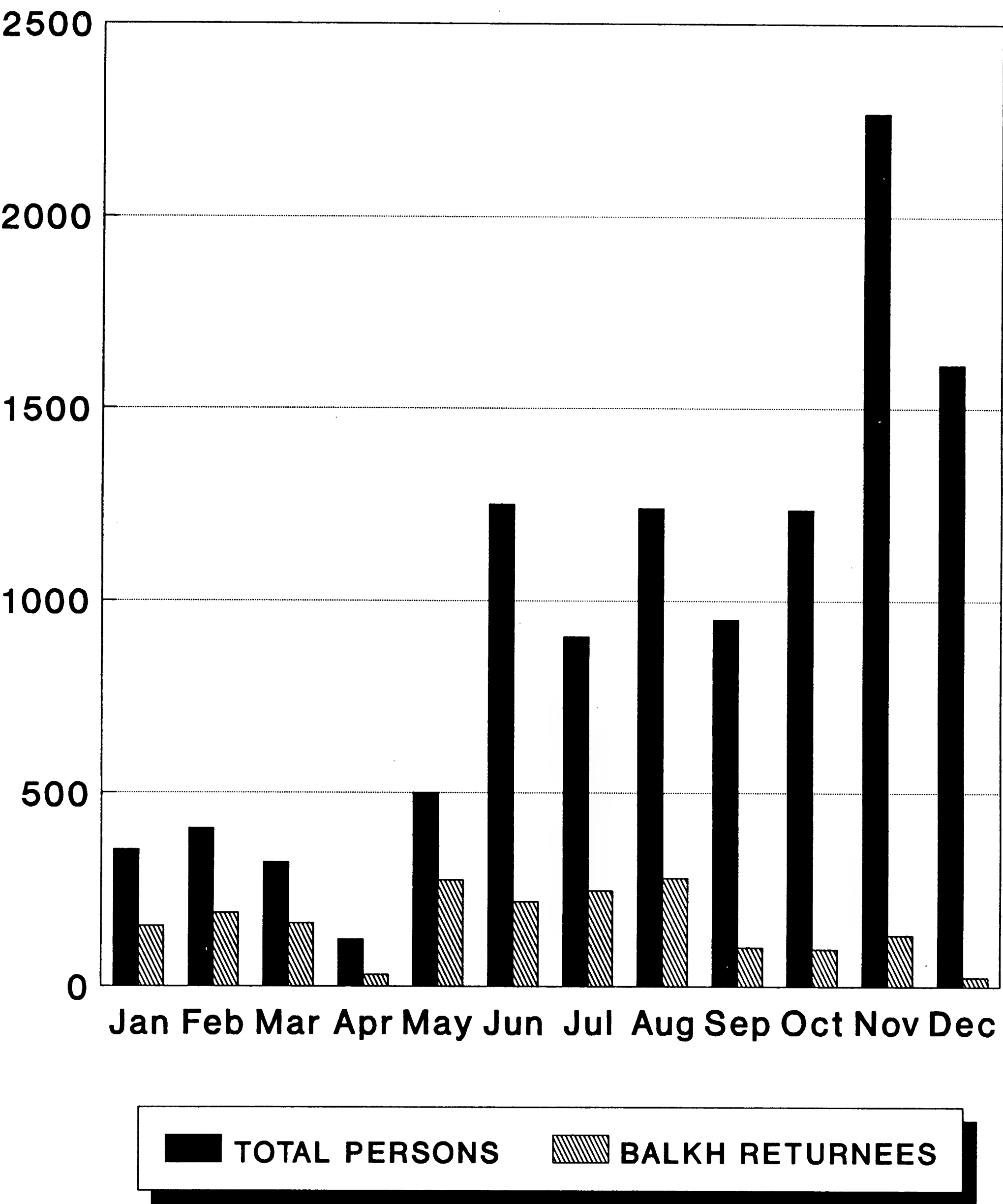
Table III.6 Number of Returnees Passing Through Peace Guest House in Mazar by Months -1990

Month	Total Persons	Number of Families	Number	Single Persons	Balkh Returnees
January	352	42	166	186	154
February	408	28	212	196	189
March	320	43	230	90	162
April	120	12	44	76	29
May	500	60	259	241	273
June	1,250	167	1,080	170	217
July	906	125	429	477	245
August	1,149	202	708	441	278
September	950	70	339	611	99
October	1,235	60	265	970	95
November	2,266	134	701	1,565	131
December	1,614	26	137	1,477	23
Total	11,070	969	4,570	6,500	1,895

Source: UNHCR, Kabul, 1990

It is reported that a significant number of people, mainly from the northern parts of Balkh province, have moved south and have either settled in Mazar city or migrated further down towards the highlands of Bamyan province and other parts of Hazarjat area. The city of Mazar being relatively more secure has also become a major center of trade. Hence Mazar accords better economic opportunities which has encouraged migration of people from other parts of the country including Kabul. The exact number and pattern of in-migrants to Mazar is not known and needs to be studied.

The nomadic groups in particular have suffered severely in terms of the freedom of movement and have also lost substantial livestock due to the war. As they were forced to limit their movements between summer to winter pastures and vice versa within the country. A substantial number of nomads in Balkh have changed their life style and reported to have adopted the vocation and life style of the settled population. This issue also needs to be studied further.


NUMBER OF RETURNEES PASSED THROUGH PEACE GUEST HOUSE IN MAZAR BY MONTHS, 1990
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
TOTAL PERSONS
BALKH RETURNEES

IV. AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Despite the existence of a few relatively large and medium scale industries, agriculture (including livestock and forestry) is the predominant sector of the province's economy. Indications are that agricultural activities contribute to more than half of the production/income and provide livelihood to over 60 percent of the population in the province.

Balkh province, along with the northern provinces of Samangan, Jawzjan, Saripul and Faryab, is considered to be a part of the second most important agricultural area in the country. Traditionally, it has been among the food grain surplus areas, exporting cereals and a number of other agro-based products to other provinces as well as abroad. However, as discussed here later, this sector has also been very badly affected by the prolonged conflict. Qualitative and quantitative assessment of the effects of the war is very difficult to make at present, mainly due to the security risks involved in conducting such a study.

Data on agriculture in Afghanistan was not very reliable even during the pre-war days. The government statistics, especially for the period of war, is not considered to be much credible. The other source of information is the Agricultural Survey of Afghanistan (ASA), conducted by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), with the central objective of determining the effects of war on the country's agriculture.

In view of the limitation of the SCA agricultural survey (see Annex A), only selected and broad conclusions from the survey are discussed here. In addition, supplementary data on agriculture, based on primary and secondary sources, have been presented.

IV.1 Land Resource and Land Use

Based on the data provided by the Department of Agriculture in Mazar, land resource and utilization in Balkh province in 1990 is shown in Table IV.1. Of the total area of the province (1,684,000 hectares), about 650,000 hectares (38.6%) is classified as agricultural land and the remaining 1,034,000 hectares (61.4%) consists of mountains and deserts. Of the total agricultural land, 464,000 hectares (71.4%) are arable, 139,000 hectares (21.4%) are pastures and meadows, and the remaining 47,000 hectares (7.2%) are forests and rangeland.

In 1990, out of 464,000 hectares of arable land about 232,000 hectares were reported to be under cultivation; of this 216,000 hectares were under temporary crops and 16,000 hectares under permanent crops. Another 232,000 hectares (50% of the total arable land) remains uncultivated. In 1990, as compared to the pre-war years, land under cultivation

dropped by 83,000 hectares.

Table IV.1 Land Use Pre-war and 1990.

(Area in 000 hectares)

	1968	1978	1990
1. Total area		1,684	1,684
2. Agricultural Area			650
- Arable Land			464
Area Under Cultivation	313	315	232
Land Under Temporary Crops			216
Land Under Permanent Crops			16
Uncultivate Land			232
- Permanent Pastures and Meadows	385		139
- Forest and Woodland	71		47
3. Other Areas (Mountains and Deserts)		1,034	1,034

Sources: GOA, Mazar, Department of Agriculture (1990 figures)
Orkland Report, 1988 (1968/78 figures)

In terms of hectarage under cultivation, the district of Balkh is the most important agriculture area followed by Shulgareh and Chemtal districts. These districts are found to be very fertile and have sufficient water throughout the spring season due to the melting of ice on the surrounding mountains. Although Shur Tappeh and Kaldar districts, which extend toward the northern part of Balkh province bordering river Amu, have plain lands, but due to the lack of irrigation facilities are not agriculturally productive. The districts of Charkent, Keshendeh and Marmol being mountainous are relatively less important for agriculture.

IV.2 Irrigation and Dry Farming

In 1990, about 80 per cent of the total land under cultivation was irrigated, while the other 20 per cent was rainfed (non-irrigated). The extent of dry farming depends on the vagaries of rainfall, types of crops, and fertility of the land. The extent of irrigated land by district is shown in Table IV.2. In 1979, total irrigated land in Balkh province was about 224,510 hectares. But in 1989/90, the irrigated area was about 132,920 hectares, dropping by 91,590 hectares. The drop is more evident in the districts of Balkh, Char Bulaq, Chemtal, Dowlatabad and Nahre Shahi.

LAND USE IN BALKH PROVINCE - 1990
(000 hectar)

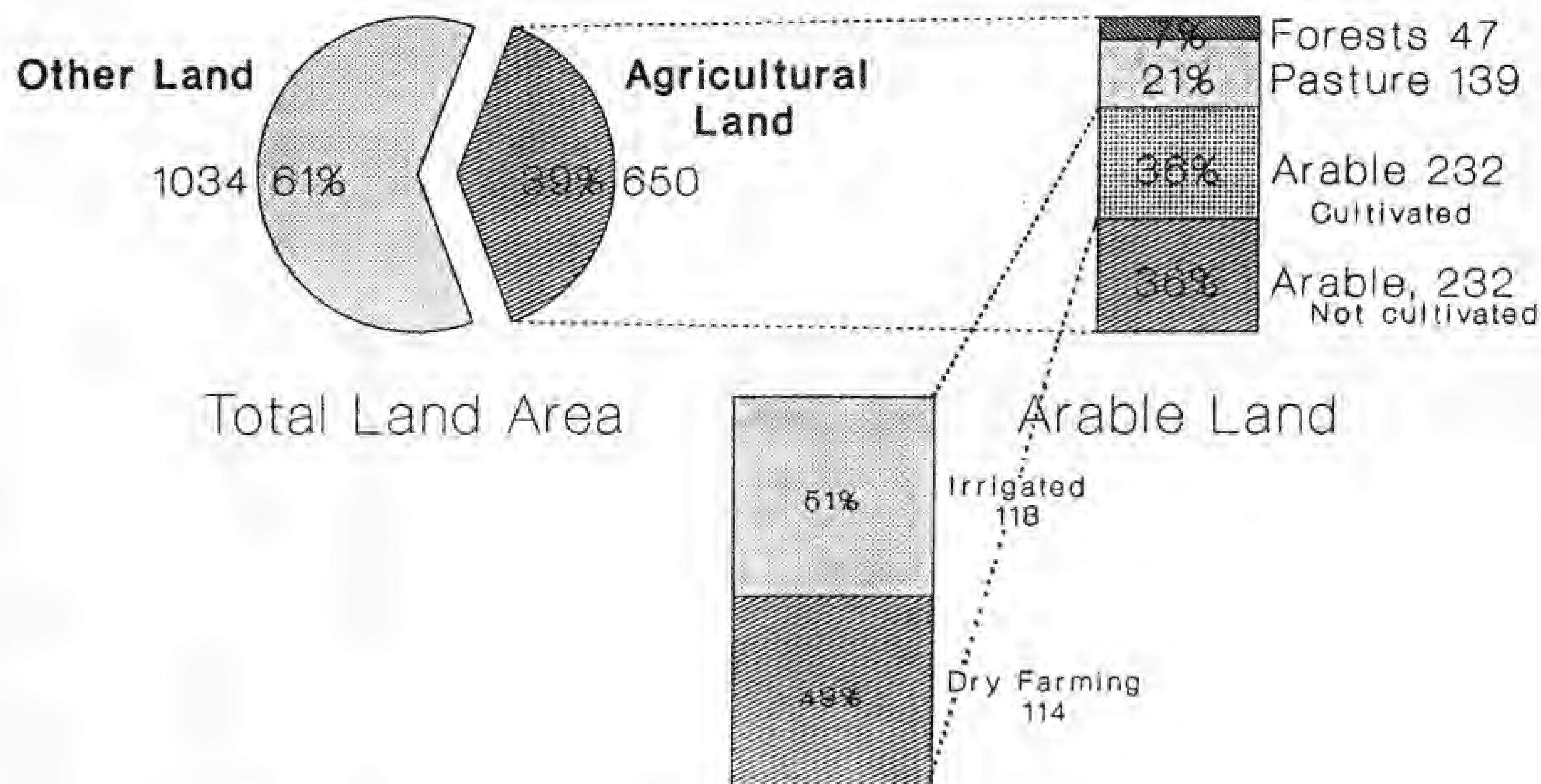


Table IV.2 Irrigated Land in 1979 and 1990 by District

(hectares)

District	1979	1990
Balkh	40,186	24,510
Char Bulaq	47,706	16,875
Char Kent	18	1,000
Chemtal	30,810	18,910
Dehdadi	11,368	10,410
Dowlatabad	62,584	10,840
Keshendeh	1,300	1,400
Kholm	-	8,325
Kaldar	-	3,890
Nahre Shahi	21,858	15,250
Shulgareh	6,098	22,080
Shur Tappeh	2,582	3,320
Total	224,510	136,810

Sources: L.W. Adamec, Mazar and North-central Afghanistan (1979 data)
GOA, Mazar, Department of Agriculture (1990 data)

IV.2.1 Irrigation Facilities

During pre-war years there were more than 250 canals and streams and over 95 springs providing irrigation to different parts of the province. Irrigation facilities and land under irrigation by each source in various districts of the province during pre-war years is shown in Table IV.3 and Table IV.4. River Balkhab, originating from Bandi Amir in Bamyan Province, flows northerly through the districts of Shulgareh, Chemtal and Balkh. Ten major canals from this river provide irrigation water for more than 150,000 hectares in Chematal, Dawlatabad, Balkh, Nahre Shahi and Char Bulaq districts. Details on these canals, including the number of beneficiaries (farmers) from each canal, are given in Table IV.5. However,

the irrigation water supplied through these canals is not sufficient to fully utilize the potentially irrigable land in the area, for all crop seasons.

Table IV.3 Land Under Irrigation by Sources and by District, Pre-1979

(Area in Jeribs)

Districts	Canals & Streams	Springs	Karezes	Wells	Total
Balkh	200,930	-	-	-	200,930
Char Bulaq	238,530	-	-	-	238,530
Char Kent	60	20	10	-	90
Chemtal	154,010	40	-	-	154,050
Dehdadi	56,100	640	-	100	56,840
Dowlatabad	312,920	-	-	-	312,920
Keshendeh	6,370	10	-	100	6,480
Nahre Shahi	109,040	250	-	-	109,290
Shulgareh	30,420	20	-	50	30,490
Shur Tappeh	12,860	-	-	-	12,860
Total	1,121,240	980	10	250	1,122,480

Note : One jerib is approximately 0.2 hectares.

Source: L.W. Adamec, Mazar and North-Central Afghanistan, 1979.

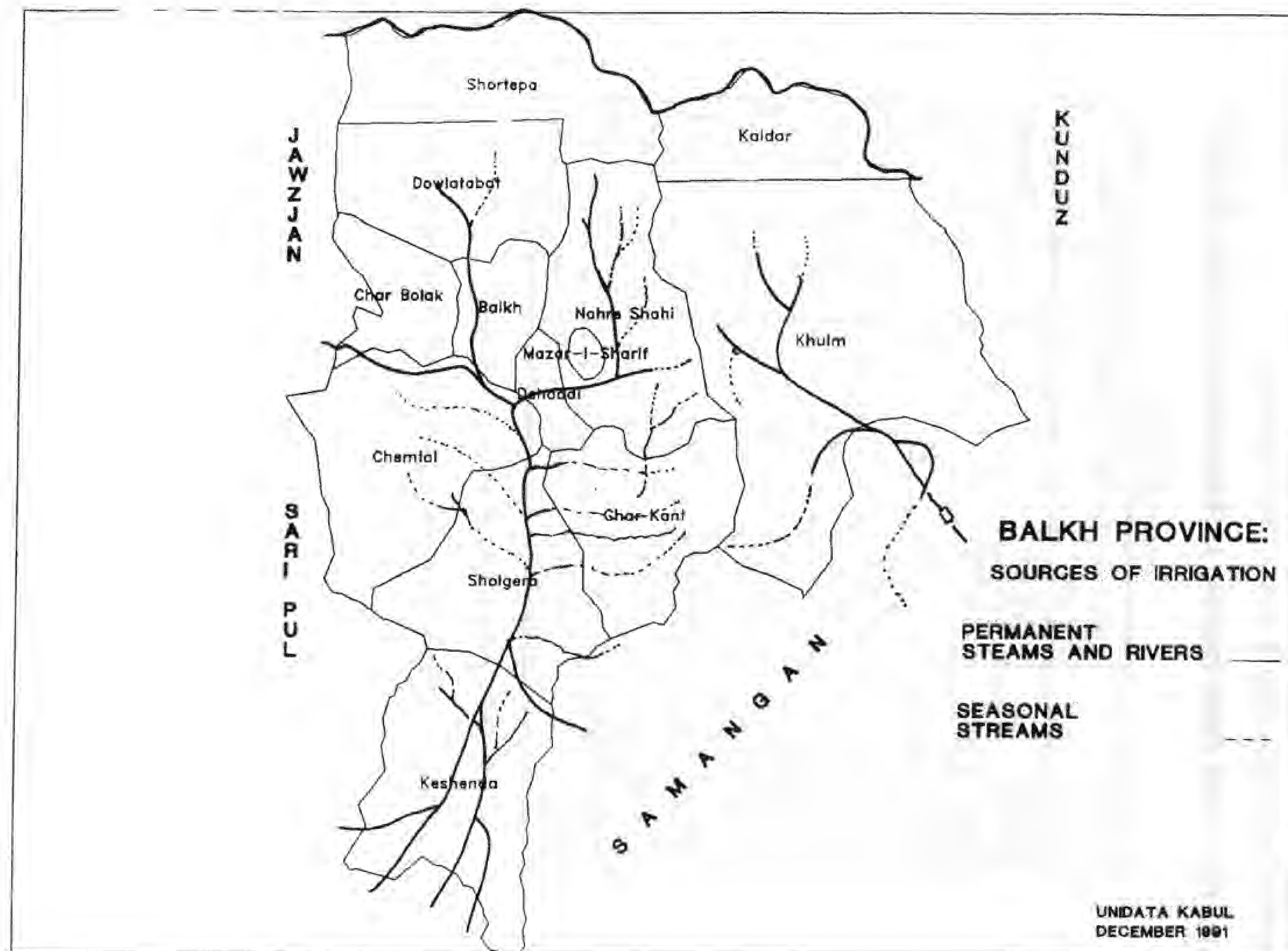

BALKH PROVINCE:
SOURCES OF IRRIGATION
PERMANENT STEAMS AND RIVERS
SEASONAL STREAMS
JAWZJAN
KUNDUZ
SARI PUL
SAMANGAN
Shortepa
Kaldar
Dowlatabat
Char Bolak
Balkh
Nahre Shahi
Mazar-I-Sharif
Khulm
Dehdadi
Chamtal
Char-Kant
Sholgera
Keshenda
UNIDATA KABUL
DECEMBER 1991

Table IV.4 Types and Number of Irrigation Sources by District, Pre-1979

Districts	Canals & Streams	Springs	Karezes	Wells	Water Mills
Balkh	53	-	-	-	69
Char Bulaq	34	1	-	-	54
Char Kent	24	18	3	-	90
Chemtal	24	2	-	-	45
Dehdadi	1	28	-	21	133
Dowlatabad	34	-	-	-	121
Keshendeh	15	1	-	-	45
Nahre Shahi	26	28	-	1	160
Shulgareh	29	4	-	60	139
Shur Tappeh	10	-	-	-	156
Total	250	82	3	82	1,012

Source: L.W. Adamec, Mazar and North-Centeral Afghanistan, 1979

The Amu Darya (Oxus river) in the north of the province, with a very substantial water flow, has not yet been utilized for irrigation. Springs, arhats and karezes are utilized for the irrigation of less than five per cent of irrigated land in the province.

It has been reported that the irrigation system of the province in pre-war years, though not sufficient, was in a relatively good working order. However, due to the war damages, lack of proper maintenance and deteriorating security conditions in recent years the irrigation system is providing less water each year. The need for repair and rehabilitation of existing sources of irrigation and the expansion of irrigation sources should be considered on a priority basis.

population, agriculture, industry, health, education, roads, etc. had to come from relatively reliable secondary sources which include the following:

a) **Mission Reports:** Reference has been made to various mission reports by UNOCA, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, etc, where the teams had access to different locations in the province as part of their relief programmes and monitoring and evaluation exercises. The qualitative and quantitive information extracted from these reports have been further verified with data/information from other secondary sources.

b) **Published Reports:** The main sources here are the annual publications, mainly the statistical year books of the Ministry of Central Statistics called the Central Statistics Office (CSO) until 1990 of the Government of Afghanistan and the survey reports on various sectors of the economy published during the last decade, with special reference to the northern parts of Afghanistan and Balkh province. These reports are listed in the references.

c) **Unpublished Official Records:** These include the information within the files and records of various departments and Ministries of the Afghan Government.

In addition to the secondary data, UNIDATA staff gathered information by visiting a number of district centers and localities in Balkh province. Based on the pre-designed questionnaire, discussions and interviews were held with government officials, heads of shuras, maliks (head of villages), teachers, heads of establishments and elderly and knowledgeable people. In a number of cases, mission members of various UN agencies going to the province also cooperated in filling the questionnaires and forms for UNIDATA.

1.3 Presentation of the Study

The contents of this report are arranged in three parts. Part-I of the provincial profile includes background information and issues related to various socio-economic sectors at the level of the province. Part-II consists of district profiles, describing the sectoral situation of population, agriculture, rural industries, handicrafts, roads, transport, water and sanitation, education and health conditions, etc. Part-III describes constraints in each sector and identifies rehabilitation and reconstruction needs. This part also includes a list of on-going assistance activities.

At the provincial level, an effort has been made to present the sectoral situations in two time-frames, i.e. 1978 and 1990. The 1978 sectoral data provides a fairly accurate assessment of the pre-war situation, and is used here as the baseline from which to measure changes. The 1990 data and information depicts the present situation. This approach is helpful in evaluating the effects of the long-drawn war, identifying the

Table.IV.5 Irrigation Canals, Irrigable and Irrigated Area, 1990

Name of Canal	Length Km.	Irrigatable Area Hectares	% Area Utilized	District	No. of Beneficia-ries
Nahre Amam	35	14,400	35	Chemtal	4,445
Nahre Shahi	35	38,880	50	Nahre Shahi	12,000
Nahre Siagard	50	9,360	30	Nahre Shahi	2,889
Nahre Balkh	20	4,208	40	Balkh	1,299
Nahre Moshtaq	30	14,400	30	Balkh	4,445
Nahre Chemtal	35	11,808	50	Chemtal	3,645
Nahre Abdullah	45	48,960	40	Dowlatabad	15,111
Nahre Dawlatabad	40	54,000	40	Dowlatabad	16,666
Nahre Charbulaq	65	54,000	30	Dowlatabad	16,666
Nahre Faizabad	35	43,200	30	Charbulaq	13,333
Nahre Aqcha	70	79,200	30	Aqcha	24,444
Total		372,416			114,943

Source: GOA, Mazar, Irrigation Office, 1990

IV.3 Crop Pattern and Production

The main crops grown in the province are wheat, barley, cotton, maize, rice, and fruits (especially melon, almond and pomegranate). The extent of area under each major crop, level of output and productivity per hectare are given in Table IV.6. A comparison of the pre-war and present situation (Table IV.7) indicates the effects of the prolonged conflict on the agricultural sector in the province.

Cereals, including wheat, barley and oil seeds are grown on both irrigated and rain-fed land while vegetables and some industrial crops, such as cotton, are grown on irrigated land.

According to an SCA report, the average size of irrigated farm in Balkh is about 40 jeribs (approximately 8 hectares) and of the non-irrigated (rain-fed) farm about 50 jeribs (approximately 10 hectares).

The record at the Land Reform Office in Mazar indicates that there were 28,626 farm households registered in 1978. The land owned by various households in 1978 was as follows:

Table IV.6 Land Holding Areas - 1978

(Area in jrib)

Land Holding (in Jeribs)	No. of Families	%
Less than 10	10,752	37.6
10-12	16,638	58.1
13-25	329	1.1
16 and more	907	3.2
Total	28,626	100.00

Source: DRA, Mazar, Land Reform, 1978

The record also indicates that 88 per cent of the farm households were owner occupies, 7 percent were share croppers and 5 percent were tenants.

There are two cropping seasons in Balkh: spring and autumn. The spring season covers the period from February to July and the autumn cropping season extends from September to January. Most of the crops grown in the province are confined to the spring season, while wheat and barley are also cultivated in the autumn. Double cropping is limited mainly due to the shortage of water.

The area under cultivation and production of major crops in Balkh in 1976/77 and 1989/90 (Table IV.6 and Table IV.7) indicates that the total cultivated area for wheat declined from 84,157 hectares in 1976/77 to 78,600 hectares in 1989/90. The drop in production of wheat is even more striking as it dropped from 103,552 tons in 1976/77 to 80,841 tons in 1989/90. Yield per hectare also declined from 1,230 kg in 1976/77 to 1,028 kg in 1989/90, a drop of 17 per cent. According to the SCA reports, wheat yield per hectare of irrigated land in 1987 was 23 per cent lower than in 1978. In rain-fed land, per hectare yield during the same period was 50 percent lower.

Table IV.7 Area Under Cultivation and Production of Main Crops by District, 1976/77

(area in hectares, production in metric tons)

District	Wheat		Barley		Maize		Cotton	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
Balkh	12,531	15,350	1,139	1,594	52	82	5,669	6,944
Char Bulaq	8,513	10,428	957	1,340	-	-	3,730	4,569
Chemtal	7,975	9,769	929	1,301	8	12	2,004	2,455
Dehdadi	3,134	3,839	98	137	11	17	1,670	2,046
Dowlatabad	8,826	10,809	3,589	5,024	-	-	1,827	2,238
Nahreshahi	21,224	25,999	2,638	3,833	-	-	4,757	7,057
Shulgareh	21,934	26,868	2,984	4,178	298	469	1,394	1,708
Shurtappeh	20	490	-	-	1,394	2,195	1,225	1,500
Total	84,157	103,552	12,334	17,407	1,763	2,775	22,276	28,517

Source: GOA, Mazar, Department of Agriculture, 1990

Wheat output in recent years has also been affected by locust and sunn pest. Wheat production in the province in 1989/90 is reported to be about 88,000 mts. Similarly, information provided by the Department of Agriculture in Mazar indicates that area under barely cultivation declined by almost 40 per cent, from 12,334 hectares in 1976/77 to 7,830 hectares in 1989/90. The decline in output was almost 50 percent from 17,407 tons in 1976/77 to 9,345 tons in 1989/90. The decline in output was also associated with lower yield per hectare, from 1,411 kg to 1,190 kg during the same period.

Cotton, the major industrial crop during pre-war years, has suffered most in terms of both production and area under cultivation. Area under cotton cultivation declined from 22,276 hectares in 1976/77 to 10,596 hectares in 1989/90, while production declined from 28,517 tons to 12,694 tons during the same period. SCA reports 28% decline in cotton production in 1987 as compared to 1978.

Among the foodgrains maize is the only crop that shows an increase in both the area under cultivation and the output. Area cultivated under this crop increased from 1,763 hectares in 1976/77 to 3,150 hectares in 1989/90, while production increased from 2,775

tons to 4,714 tons during the same period.

Table IV.8 Area Under Cultivation and Production of Main Crops by District, 1989/90

(Area in hectares, Production in metric tons)

District	Wheat		Barley		Maize		Cotton	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
Balkh	15,100	18,497	1,900	1,540	300	472	2,642	3,236
Char Bulaq	10,300	9,012	1,130	1,384	370	518	942	824
Char Kent	1,600	1,120	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chemtal	10,900	12,445	1,400	2,205	230	362	2,500	3,089
Dehdadi	5,700	6,892	430	602	450	708	1,014	1,135
Dowlatabad	10,000	8,750	690	742	-	-	100	70
Keshendeh	1,300	910	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kholm	6,600	5,775	180	220	-	-	150	105
Kaldar	1,400	1,470	50	61	750	1,181	914	1,279
Mazar	150	183	10	14	-	-	20	12
Nahreshahi	10,200	8,925	1,200	1,260	80	56	600	420
Shulgareh	12,400	13,020	810	1,275	340	535	1,000	1,400
Shurtappeh	950	997	30	42	630	882	714	1,124
Total	86,600	87,996	7,830	9,345	3,150	4,714	10,596	12,694

Source: GOA, Mazar, Department of Agriculture, 1990

Balkh province has traditionally been famous in the production of various kinds of fruits, especially melon, almond, promegrenate and grapes. Available information shows that in pre-war years about 6,530 hectares of land was under fruit crops in the province. In Kholm alone 500 hectares were reported to be mainly under pomegranates, almonds and grapes.

Area under fruit crops in 1990 in various districts of the province is given in

Table IV.8. Data on the production is not available. The province, however, is still an exporter of fruits and nuts.

Table IV.9 Area Under Fruit Crops by District, 1990

(hectares)

Districts	Apple	Pea	Grape	Apri-cot	Alm-ond	Wa-lnut	Pome-grenate	Melon	Total
Balkh	150	70	230	70	200	15	-	1,000	1,735
Char Bulaq	5	-	80	10	30	-	-	500	625
Char Kent	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	200	207
Chemtal	80	10	150	15	40	-	-	1,000	1,295
Dehdadi	100	65	120	80	60	10	400	700	1,535
Dowlatabad	-	-	3,000	70	-	-	-	500	3,570
Keshendeh	-	-	80	-	-	-	-	0	80
Kholm	2	10	2,500	200	1,400	-	1,000	200	5,312
Kaldar	2	-	250	5	-	-	-	50	307
Mazar	8	4	150	10	-	-	-	100	272
Nahre Shahi	4	3	50	12	100	-	-	500	669
Shulgareh	12	8	60	15	-	-	-	300	395
Shur tappeh	2	-	100	20	-	-	-	80	202
Total	367	170	6,775	507	1,830	25	1,400	6,292	15,042

Source: GOA, Mazar, Department of Agriculture, 1990

IV.4 Agricultural Inputs

IV.4.1 Wheat and Cotton Seeds

The average size of land holding in the province, as mentioned earlier, is 4 to 5 hectares. However, there are few farms with size ranging from 80 to 100 hectares. Most of these farms which were privately owned before 1979 were later acquired by the government in order to produce improved cotton and wheat seeds. Five farms, namely Ali

Chopan, Khosapaz, Zozan, the agriculture research farms at Nahre Shahi and Daragy, are under the management of the government in Kabul and the rest are under the control of different political groups. Markazai farm in the district of Dowlatabad has been rented out and is being operated as a private farm since 1988.

Table IV.10 Name, Size and Location of Agricultural Farms in Balkh Province, 1990.

Name of Farm	Total Area (ha.)	District (location)	Controlled by:
Ali Chopan	440	Nahre shahi	Government
Khosapaz	194	Dehdadi	Government
Zozan	186	Balkh	Government
Deragy	122	Balkh	Government
Sywanchi Khowja	227	Dowlatabad	Jamiat
Markazi	222	Dowlatabad	Private
Chaee	718	Dowlatabad	Hezbi/Jamiat
Esteen	114	Char Bulaq	Harakat
Yange Qalah	203	Chemtal	Hezbi
Dehdadi	114	Dehdadi	Private
Sadmaish	1,003	Shulgareh	Jamiat/Harakat
Research farm	80	Nahre shahi	Government

Source: UNIDATA, 1991

The wheat and cotton seeds production of the above farms in 1979/80 and 1989/90 are given in the following table.

The wheat seed produced by these farms are distributed by the Improved Seed Enterprise (ISE) in Mazar which caters to the farmers' seed requirements. It has been reported that only about 400 mt. of wheat seed was produced in Afghanistan during the year 1990 and the seed farms in the province had contributed about half of that amount.

Table IV.11 Wheat and Cotton Seed Production

Farm	Wheat Seed (mt.)		Cotton Seed (mt.)	
	1979/80	1989/90	1979/80	1989/90
Alichopan	177.0	75.3	3.0	-
Dehdadi	32.4	-	4.0	-
Khosapaz	57.5	74.2	13.9	32.4
Zozan	73.5	39.1	14.0	7.4
Deragy	40.1	18.2	8.4	4.3
Yangiguala	35.1	-	59.4	-
Markazada	17.2	-	10.3	-
Sywanchi Khowja	19.0	-	5.7	-
Esteen	36.2	-	7.2	-
Sadmaih	65.7	-	-	-

Source: UNIDATA, 1991

IV.4.2 Fertilizer

Most farmers in Balkh province use manure. The use of chemical fertilizer has also been increasing from the pre-war years. The farmers in Balkh are in a relatively better position for obtaining fertilizer because of the location of the factory near Mazar. The fertilizer factory built with the U.S.S.R. assistance, produces urea and exports most of its produce to the USSR. A portion of its production is also delivered to the Fertilizer Company, the authority responsible for internal distribution. The Fertilizer Company has a warehouse with a storage capacity of 2,000 mts. The company reports that they have distributed the following quantities of fertilizer to farmers in the province from their Mazar outlet during the period 1979-1990.

IV.4.3 Farm Labour

There has been no comprehensive manpower survey in Balkh province, or in the country, during the past twelve years. Pre-war information and the results of GOA

census of 1979 indicate that about 24 per cent of total settled population, or 52 per cent of the working age (15-59 years) population in Balkh province, were engaged in agriculture and related activities, including animal husbandry and forestry. Official sources report that in 1988/89 there were 164,810 people actively engaged in agricultural activities. This would imply that with about 464,000 hectares of cultivable land in the province and with the average farm size of about 4.5 hectares there would be 1.6 workers per farm.

Table IV.12 Fertilizer Distribution to Balkh Farmers

(in mts.)

Year	Urea	DAP	TSP
1978/79	1,428	621	134
1979/80	1,408	698	64
1980/81	1,882	294	366
1981/82	2,697	2	282
1982/83	2,395	-	15
1983/84	7,699	-	344
1984/85	4,644	-	1,438
1985/86	4,376	-	1,792
1986/87	6,960	-	2,217
1987/88	6,392	-	3,181
1988/89	6,827	-	2,014
1989/90	16,880	-	2,345

Note: DAP = Di Ammonium Phosphate, TSP = Triple Super Phosphate

Source: GOA, Mazar, Fertilizer Company, 1990

It is claimed that labour shortage, especially during planting and harvesting seasons, is a major constraint in the various districts of Balkh province.

The SCA report of 1988/89 gives the following figures for Balkh province:

Average number of persons per household	12.2
Average number of farmers per household	2.1
Average area irrigated per farm (ha.)	7.8
Average rainfed area per farm (ha.)	9.9
Average number of farm workers	1.9

Source: SCA, Sixth Report, 1990

IV.4.4 Farm Power and Implements

Traditionally, in addition to human labour, animal power is used for ploughing, harvesting, transportation and irrigation purposes. Use of tractors and modern equipments in agriculture sector is still not widely practiced in Balkh.

According to the SCA report of 1988/89, average number of draught animals and other livestock per farm in Balkh and the ownership percentage are as given in the following table:

Table IV.13 Average Number of Animals per Family

Type	Percent of Farmers Owning	Average Number per Family
Oxen	75.7	1.4
Donkey	86.4	1.7
Horse	60.2	1.2
Cow	38.8	0.7
Sheep and goat	64.6	21.2

Source: SCA, Sixth Report, 1990

The SCA survey concludes that farm power in the province before the war was relatively high. Though Balkh has been among the most "oxenized" provinces, where the average family has more than one pair of oxen, the province was also heavily "tractorized"

before the war because of insufficient farm labour. During the pre-war days tradors were used on big farms. However, a major problem now concerning the use of tractors, as pointed out by the farmers, is its high cost of operation and scarcity of fuel. Availability of farm tools and implements is not a major problem in Balkh, but for the average farmer the costs have gone up very rapidly.

IV.5 Livestock

Existing information indicates that animal husbandry, as a sub-sector of agriculture, plays an important role in the economy of the province. Livestock provides not only meat, dairy products, hides and skins, but also means of transport, farm power and manure. Data on the number of livestock in Balkh province is given in Table IV.13. The total livestock population in the province for the pre-war year 1968/69 and the year 1989/90 is compared in the last two rows.

Balkh is the second major province (after Jowzjan) for Karakul sheep raising. About 65 percent of sheep population in Balkh province is of Karakul sheep variety, comprising almost 22 per cent of the country's stock. Official statistics, presented in Table IV.13 shows overall increase in livestock population.

The results of SCA survey (1988/89) indicate that the percentage of farmers in Balkh province owning sheep and goats is 64.6, oxen 75.7, horses 60.2 and other cattle 34. The average number of sheep and goats per farm household is estimated to be 21 heads.

The above figures, especially concerning sheep, do not seem to be realistic. Goats and sheep require similar inputs and environment. According to the figures the goat population in 1990 have been reduced to 6,000 from over 12,000 in 1968/69. On the other hand the number of sheep has grown over ten-folds in the same period. Considering the war effects on the movements of nomads who own most of the flock, the 1990 figures, especially concerning sheep, should not be taken as accurate.

rehabilitation and reconstruction needs and pointing the direction for medium and long term development planning.

Even at the best of times data on Afghanistan have been scanty and often not so reliable. This is more so in some sectors than the others. For example, data on agriculture sector even during peace time was often considered as not very reliable. On the other hand, education sector statistics before the war were considered to be quite reliable. UNIDATA does not claim complete accuracy of the data presented in this report. However, the data and information does help define the extent and nature of the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs and would be useful for programme/project formulation and planning by agencies involved in assistance activities in Afghanistan.

Table IV.14 Livestock by District, 1990

(Number in hundreds)

District	Cattle	Sheep	Goat	Camel	Horse	Donkey
Balkh	104	2,250	600	5	8	4
Char Bulaq	104	2,250	600	5	8	4
Char Kent	52	1,125	300	5	10	5
Chemtal	114	2,475	660	10	8	4
Dehdadi	42	900	240	3	2	1
Dowlatabd	114	2,475	660	15	12	6
Keshendeh	41	900	240	5	5	2
Kholm	104	2,250	600	5	10	5
Kaldar	52	1,125	300	15	4	2
Mazar	52	1,125	300	2	8	4
Marmol	42	900	240	3	5	3
Nahre Shahi	62	1,350	360	4	5	2
Shulgareh	104	2,250	600	3	10	5
Shur Tappeh	52	1,125	300	20	5	2
Total (1990)	1,039	22,500	6,000	100	100	49
Total(1968/69)	9,334	2,201	12,524	81	359	528

Source: GOA, Mazar, Department of Livestock Extension, 1990

IV.6 Pastures and Forests

Prior to 1979 about 385,000 hectares of land in Balkh consisted of permanent pastures and meadows. The pasture lands have supported animal husbandry, especially larger flocks and herds kept by the nomadic population. The province before the war was considered to be the major area for raising goats and sheep, especially Karakul sheep. Data for 1990 provided by the Department of Agriculture Mazar, however, shows the extent of pasture land to be only 139,000 hectares. The figures indicate heavy losses in permanent pastures and meadows due to the war which subsequently had a very negative impact on the

livestock population in the province.

Table IV.15 Forest Area in Balkh, 1990

(in hectares)

District	Land Area sq. km.	Forest Area	Forest as % of Land
Balkh	48,100	0	0.00
Char Bulaq	51,100	0	0.00
Char Kent	144,500	1,000	0.69
Chemtal	173,000	3,000	1.73
Dehdadi	23,300	0	0.00
Dowlatabad	86,400	7,480	8.66
Keshendeh	180,200	6,900	3.83
Kholm	424,700	7,200	1.70
Kaldar	75,800	4,300	5.67
Mazar	4,800	0	0.00
Nahreshahi	177,100	1,300	0.73
Shulgareh	166,300	10,000	6.01
Shurtappeh	128,400	6,300	4.91
Total	1,683,700	47,480	2.82

Source: GOA, Mazar, Department of Agriculture, 1990

Similarly, forest land prior to 1979 was reported to be 70,900 hectares which, when compared with 47,480 hectares reported for 1990 (Table IV.14), indicates a 35 percent decline. It is claimed that careless cutting of wood for fuel and construction purposes has been partly responsible for the loss of woodland. However, destruction of forests by the government forces, because it provided shelter and hideouts to the opposition, also has been another major factor in the deteriorating conditions of forests in Balkh.

V. FOOD SITUATION AND STORAGE FACILITIES

V.1 Food Grain Production and Consumption

Except for a few food deficit areas, Balkh province as a whole has traditionally been a food-surplus area before the war. The data presented in Table V.1 shows that in 1968/69 the province was exporting substantial quantities of cereals and other agricultural products to various provinces in Afghanistan.

Table V.1 Cereal Production, Consumption, Surplus and/or Deficit by District, 1968/69

(in mts.)

District	Cereal Production	Average Consumption	Average Surplus	Average Deficit
Mazar	-	11.9	-	11.9
Balkh	47.4	11.6	35.8	-
Chemtal	54.7	6.7	48.0	-
Char Bulaq	58.2	7.5	50.7	-
Dawlatabad	85.6	15.6	70.0	-
Shurtappeh	2.1	8.6	-	6.5
Shulgarch	19.7	6.5	13.2	-
Nahre Shahi	34.6	10.0	24.6	-
Char Kent	10.4	8.2	2.2	-
Dehdadi	14.0	7.7	6.3	-
Keshendeh	12.5	10.9	1.6	-
Kaldar	0.5	8.9	-	8.4
Kholm	50.8	11.8	39.0	-
Total	390.5	125.9	291.4	26.8

Source: Checci & Company, Agricultural Survey, 1968/69

Cereal surplus in 1968/69 was estimated to be over 291000 tons. Mazar, Shur Tappeh and Kaldar during 1968/69 were food deficit areas, while Dawlatabad, Char Bulaq, Chemtal, Kholm, Balkh and Nahre Shahi were major cereal surplus districts.

In 1989/90, however, the total production of wheat, barley, maize (see Table IV.7) and rice (about 7,000 tons) is reported to be about 110,000 tons. This amount is even lesser than the average consumption of cereals in 1968/69. Based on the UN estimate of per capita consumption of cereals of about 256 kg per year, cereal requirement for the population of Balkh province will be roughly 200,000 tons. The present production figures for cereals would imply a deficit of about 90,000 tons.

According to the information published by the GOA Ministry of Planning, gross output of wheat in Balkh province was about 171,000 tons in 1986 and 173,000 tons in 1987. Planned output for 1988/89 was reported to be 185,000 tons. Corresponding production data for paddy (rice before threshing) are 29,500, 28,200 and 30,000 tons. No data is published for other cereals. However, government sources lately have been revising the production figures downwards. Another source UNOCA (Third Consolidated Report, Oct. 1990) claims that the current annual wheat production is estimated to be under 150,000 mt.

It is difficult to assess precisely the state of shortage or surplus of food grains in the province. However, there are clear indications that the situation has been deteriorating rapidly due to the decade-long conflict. Population of the province, compared to the pre-war period, has increased substantially. On the other hand, area under crops, especially cereals, and yield have decreased considerably. Moreover, the northern provinces, including Balkh, have been severely damaged by drought, locust and sunn pest infestation in the recent years. Deteriorating security condition in various districts has its own negative effect on the production.

When compared with the neighboring provinces, the crop damage due to sunn pest and locust in Balkh province does not seem to be severe. The provincial authorities report that the damage due to these causes have been experienced especially in the mountainous districts, affecting 7-12 percent of the cultivated area due to sunn pest and 5-10 percent area due to locust during the year 1990. Most of these areas are under the control of different political groups opposed to the government. Hence, farmers do not have an easy access to pesticides and to extension facilities. The most affected areas in this respect are Shulgareh, Char Kent, Chemtal, Char Bulaq, and Keshendeh. Drought is also one of the reasons for crop damage in the districts of Dowlatabad, Nahre Shahi, and Char Bulaq.

The UN special winter action programme has, by the end of 1990, distributed 2,970 tons of wheat in various parts of Balkh province through Food for Work (558 tons), Food for Bazaar (1,317 tons) and Food for Vulnerable (1,093 tons) schemes.

V.2 Storage Facilities

In Balkh province most farmers, especially those with relatively small land holdings, operate on a self-sufficiency basis. Whatever is considered adequate for their own consumption is stored in small traditional storage bins. The surplus grain is marketed by the producers through the grain-bazzars at the provincial center and other cities. In 1978, there were 230 grain bazaar shops in Balkh province, of which 150 shops were located in Mazar grain market, 30 in Dawlatabad, 25 in Balkh district, and the other 25 in other parts of the province. About 215 grain shops in Mazar were reported to be operational in 1990.

Larger grain storage facilities with 800-40,000 metric tons in Balkh province are owned and operated by the government or the international agencies. The location, number and capacity of government owned and operated silos, hangars and ordinary godowns (storage facilities) in Balkh province in 1978 were as follows:

Table V.2 Storage Facilities in 1978

Location Type	Number	Total Storage Capacity (mt.)
Balkh Dist. Ordinary	4	4,000
Balkh Dist. Ordinary	1	800
Shulgareh Ordinary	1	1,500
Shulgareh Hangar	1	1,000
Dawlat land Ordinary	1	800
Char Bulaq Hanger	1	1,500
Kholm Ordinary	1	840
Total	10	10,440

Source: GOA, Ministry of Planning, 1991

In 1990, the city of Mazar had grain cereal storage facilities of 40,000 mt. Operation Salam has established a sizable UN presence in Mazar and has increased the local storage capacity by building its own warehouses. Twelve warehouses have been built by the UN with the assistance of Finland Government. The storage capacity of these warehouses is 12,000 mts. The warehouses are located in Mazar in an area measuring 41,000

sq. meters. These warehouses are being used to store food items donated by different governments and organizations to Afghanistan. In addition, UN has been given access to one warehouse in Hairatan, on the other side of Amu River, to handle the food aid dispatched through the Soviet Union.

V.3 Price of Food Grains and Other Consumer Items in Mazar-i-Sharif, September 1990 - May 1991

As a part of the UNIDATA's information gathering process on Balkh province, data on prices of major food items and other consumer goods was collected on a continuous basis for the period of September 1990 to May 1991, from the main markets of Mazar city. The data might be indicative but not representative of the price situation throughout the province. In view of the cost of transportation and marketing, prices can act as indicators of food availability and supply. However, under war-like situation and poor security conditions in most parts of Afghanistan, prices are highly prone to periodic fluctuations. Supply of various items depends on a host of factors that are not controlled by the normal market mechanisms. The steadily depreciating foreign exchange rates and the purchasing power of Afghani, the national currency, has also contributed significantly to the rapidly increasing prices of food and other consumer items.

Prices of all items except one, during the nine months involved, showed an upward movement. Only the price of corn showed a downward trend. The price of wheat grain varied from 120 to 145 Afs/kg, a difference of 21%, while that of wheat flour ranged from 120 to 175 Afs/kg, a variation of 41 %. A kilogram of long grain rice was priced at 350 Afs in September 1990 and 365 Afs in May 1991. Prices of mutton and beef almost doubled during the nine months period. During the same period, the price of one kilogram of potatoes increased by 63% (from 80 to 130 Afs), of onions by 460% (from 65 to 300 Afs), of black tea by 21% (from 2,800 to 3,380 Afs), of sugar by 58% (from 380 to 600 Afs), of milk powder by 22% (from 900 to 1100 Afs) and of a packet of American cigarettes by 96% (from 280 to 550 Afs). The price of kerosine jumped up from 200 to 1,200 Afs/gallon during January-February 1990, but declined to 700 Afs thereafter.

In brief the food price movement in the province, especially in Mazar, generally follows the pattern of price development and inflationary trends for the country as a whole.

VI. MINES AND INDUSTRIES

Although agriculture is the predominant sector of the province's economy, mining and industrial activities occupy the second most important position in terms of output and income generation. Since most industrial activities depend on the output and performance of other sectors, this sector has also been suffering from the affects of the prolonged war.

Information available on mineral resources and related activities in the province is inadequate. However, most of the so-called "organized industrial establishments", all of which are located in or around Mazar, were visited by the UNIDATA staff and information concerning their activities was gathered. Data/information related to the industrial establishments in private sector was gathered through interviews with knowledgeable people from various districts of Balkh province.

The following presents a brief review of the mineral resources, large and medium scale industries, small scale and rural or cottage industries in the province.

VI.1 Mineral Resources and Activities

A comprehensive study on the mineral resources in Balkh has not yet been conducted. According to the information provided by the Department of Mines and Industries in Mazar, a number of minerals are found in various parts of the province. Some of these are presently being extracted, while further exploration is needed in case of others to determine the quality and quantity of the reserves. Some of the locations with mineral resources remain unaccessible due to the present adverse security conditions. The known mineral resources in Balkh are as follows:

Salt: Salt is mined in two locations in Balkh, one located about 52 km north-east of Mazar and the other in Nybabad in Kholm.district. Small quantities of salt is mined seasonally from the first, but due to its poor quality is used mainly for hides and skin processing and road maintenance during winters. The rock salt mine of Nybabad contains potassium chloride, magnesium chloride and sodium chloride. The volume of production from the mines in Nybabad is not known.

Sulphur: A sulphur mine is located in Chemtal district, with an estimated reserve of about one million tons. Approximately 13,000 kg of sulphur has been reportedly mined in 1990.

Quartz: Deposits are located in Chashma-i-Shafa, Chemtal. Information about the reserves and the present mining condition is not available.

Lime Stones: It is found in Alburz mountain, Marmol.

Oil and Gas: Abundant reserves of natural gas, estimated at 100-200 billion cubic meters, are found near Shiberghan (Jawzjan Province) and Mazar. Places that are believed to have oil reverves in Balkh province include Jair Khana, Kaldar and Alburz mountains and most of Marmol district.

VI.2 Industrial Activities and Establishments

Industry, including small scale and traditional handicrafts, occupy the next most important position in the economy of the province. However, though not much diversified, there are a number of industrial establishments and various types of industrial activities in the rural areas of the province that place Balkh in a relatively better position than most other provinces of Afghanistan. The following account provides the main fectures of these industrial establishments:

VI.2.1 Large and Medium Scale Industries

There are a few plants in the province, mostly in or around Mazar, that could be considered as relatively large or medium size industries. These include the Fertilizer and Thermal Power Plants, Balkh Textile Plant, Balkh Ginning, Pressing and Oil Factory, and Mazar Silo.

Fertilizer and Thermal Power Plants: The country's only chemical fertilizer plant is located in Dehdadi District, 20 km from Mazar city. According to an agreement signed in 1961 with the Soviet Union the construction and installation of the plant was completed and operation started in 1973. The plant, including the residential area for the employees, covers about 60 hectares of land. It also includes a 4,000 mts. storage facility.

The fertilizer plant has an installed production capacity of 120,000 mt. of urea per year. It also has the capacity for producing 71,000 mt. of ammonia gas per year. The plant is supplied with natural gas piped from Shiberghan, some 88 km. in Jowzjan. The plant was providing employment to 2,284 persons in 1990.

The fertilizer plant has provided valuable support to agricultural activities throughout the country. A part of the plant's production is also exported. However, in recent years the plant has not been operating at full capacity. The annual production of chemical fertilizer by the plant during 1978/79-1989/90 is given in Table VI.I.

Table VI.1 Production of Chemical Fertilizer and Electricity by the Fertilizer and Thermal Power Plants, Balkh Province, 1978-1990

Year	Urea (mt)	Electricity (million kwh)
1978	105,744	201.6
1979	106,151	197.8
1980	106,170	199.4
1981	107,800	205.9
1982	112,806	212.9
1983	120,310	222.7
1984	120,506	230.9
1985	125,218	225.0
1986	126,068	236.6
1987	123,358	238.4
1988	Figures not available	
1989	106,000	228.8
1990	108,000	228.1

Source: GOA, Mazar, Dehdadi, Fertilizer & Thermal Power Plant, 1991

Feasibility study for a second fertilizer plant in Balkh province, to raise the present fertilizer production capacity to 300,000 mt. per year, is planned to be conducted by the government in 1991 and an amount of Afs. 10 million is allocated for this purpose.

The Thermal Power Plant, also built with the Soviet assistance, is equipped with three turbines each with 12,000 kwh capacity. From the total 36,000 kwh generating capacity, 12,000 kwh. are used by the fertilizer plant and related establishments and the remaining 24,000 (two turbine capacity) is distributed to Mazar and some villages and urban centers in the districts of Balkh, Kholm, Dehdadi and Nahre Shahi.

The power plant utilizes about 186 million cubic meters of gas annually. The

gas is supplied through pipelines from Shiberghan. Power production data is presented in Table VI.1. Installation of a fourth turbine, with a generating capacity of 12,000 kwh, was planned and contract with the Soviet Union was signed in 1985/86. But to date the work has not yet started. The plant is also equipped with two additional generators, with total of 1,000 kwh capacity that could be utilized in emergency. As a government enterprise, the Fertilizer and Thermal Power Plant is under the management of the Ministry of Mines and Industries. The enterprise, functioning with less than full capacity, is facing problems of maintenance, security and provisions of materials that are not locally available.

Balkh Textile Factory: Balkh Textile Factory, located in Mazar City, is another public enterprise under the management of the Ministry of Light Industries and Food. The factory was established in 1967 with French assistance, and has the production capacity of 10-12 million meters of fabrics per year. In 1967 the total cost of the plant was Afs. 500 million.

The factory was expanded in 1985 with additional equipment imported from the Soviet Union, and the production capacity was raised to 22 million meters per year. The factory's initial capital was estimated, in 1985, to be about Afs. 896.6 million with a projected final capital of one billion Afs. In 1986, employees working in the factory numbered 1,350.

Being an agro-based industry, the factory has been severely affected by the war. Due to the sharp decline in cotton production, shortage of spare parts, lubricants, chemicals and dyeing agents, and the maintenance problems, the factory is operating well below its capacity. In 1990 the factory had less than 700 employees. Production in 1986/87 and 1987/88 was only 3.8 million meters and 4.2 million meters, respectively. In 1990 production had declined to 2.55 million meters. Cotton yarn production for the same years were 412 and 510 tons, and the target for 1989 was only 500 tons.

Cotton Gin and Press and Vegetable Oil Enterprise: The following four plants, established by private investors in 1961 and 1962, were taken over by the government in 1974 and renamed as Cotton Gin and Press and Vegetable Oil Enterprise:

- Syed Shah Khan Oil Extraction Company (1962)
- Sakhi Limited (1962)
- Bakhter Cotton Industry (1962)
- New Oil Extraction Company (1961)

The plant, located in Mazar, has facilities for cotton ginning and pressing as well as for cotton seeds oil extraction, soap production and other by-products such as animal feed, cotton seeds for farmers and cotton seed crust. Major input to this plant, i.e. raw cotton, is purchased from farmers each year. Part of the output of ginned and pressed cotton from this plant has been exported, mainly to the Soviet Union. Cotton requirement of Balkh

II. BASIC FEATURES

II.1 The Land

Located in the northern Afghanistan, Balkh province covers an area of about 16,840 Km². The province has Amudarya (Oxus River) in the north which separates Afghanistan from the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan, Kunduz province in the east, Samangan and Sari Pul provinces in the south and south-west and Jowzjan province in the west. Balkh lies between 35.5-37.5 northern latitude and 66-68 eastern longitude.

The altitude of the province from sea level ranges from 200 to 750 meters in 13 out of the 14 districts, while in Marmol district it is about 1,800 meters. The topography of the province varies from flat desert to relatively high mountainous areas. The center of the province is mountainous and becomes flatter in the north and the east towards Amudarya resulting in a large desert area. It is relatively plain from the center to the south of the province.

Of the total land area only about 38 per cent is cultivable, while 62 per cent is mountainous and desert land. Of the cultivable land, only 50 per cent, (232,000 hectares) was cultivated in 1990. Pasture land in the province is reported to be about 139,000 hectares. Due to the armed conflict the forestry, which was a significant sector of the provincial economy before 1979, has been severely affected during the last two decades. Over-grating and cutting of trees indiscriminately for fuel purposes has largely contributed towards deforestation. The rich natural forests that existed in some parts of Marmol and Chemtal districts have been reported to be extensively bombed as these areas were believed to be the hideouts of the opposition forces.

It has been reported in the recent years that about 47,480 hectares of land is under forests, whereas in 1967/68 the forest area was estimated to be 70,900 hectares. The corresponding figure for 1990 is 36,000 hectares. This means that forest cover has dropped by about 50% in Balkh province during the last two decades. However, since the figures are not based on an aerial survey, the estimates provide only an indication of the detoriating situation of forests in Balkh.

The climate of Balkh is strongly determined by its topography. On the left bank of Amudarya most parts of the plains are semi-arid with desert like conditions. Rainfall is relatively low and uncertain, averaging from 25 to 40 cm per year. The rainy season extends from January to May. Due to the low pressure zones prevailing outside the country, low humidity is present throughout the year. The summers are hot with an average temperature of about 40°c during June-August. Winter are relatively cold with light snowfalls.

Textile Factory, mentioned above, is also supplied by this plant. Other by-products are sold within the province and to other parts of the country. However, due to the poor performance of agriculture in the province during 1978-1990, especially as a result of the drastic drop in cotton output, the overall activities and performance of this company, and other agro-based industries, has declined rapidly. Data concerning the total purchases of raw cotton from the farmers, output of ginned cotton and other by-products, domestic sales and export by the Company are presented in Tables VI.2 and VI.3.

Table VI.2 Cotton Gin and Press Company Mazar Domestic Sales Export, 1978-1989

(Sales in M.T)

Year	Ginned Cotton	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Cotton Sec. Oil	Soap	Oil source	Seed crust	Export
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1978	3,428	390	58	85	1,171	81	2,715	3,705	5,648
1979	1,698	325	64	78	1,131	195	3,214	4,027	679
1980	268	312	38	42	1,917	63	3,149	4,499	44
1981	762	762	251	28	15	1,388	62	2,332	4,106
1982	1,128	122	17	32	719	32	1,825	2,335	3,614
1983	2,212	127	16	4	369	27	879	1,554	412
1984	1,493	225	42	21	650	107	2,102	3,049	
1985	5,337	99	8	17	1,083	25	2,877	3,324	
1986	2,988	381	61	23	873	53	1,947	2,432	
1987	2,468	120	55	8	589	26	1,433	1,504	
1988	246	96	68	15	475	24	1,328	1,193	
1989	1,754	195	11	8	266	10	563	855	

Source: GOA, Mazar, Gin & Press Company, 1991

As the data in Table VI.2 indicates, purchase of raw cotton from farmers by the company declined from 27,417 mt. in 1978 to 2,736 in 1989, a drop of over 90 percent.

As a result, output of ginned cotton (including grades 2 to 4) also declined by about 90 per cent; i.e., from 9,692 mt. in 1978 to only 1,031 mt. in 1989. Production of cotton seed oil was also reduced from 1,366 mt. in 1978 to 256 mt. in 1989, by 82 percent. The same pattern applies to cotton export by the company which declined from 5,648 mt. in 1978 to 412 mt. in 1983, and the export ceased completely thereafter. Data concerning activities of the company during 1990 is not available, but indications are that the declining pattern in purchases, production and sales have continued. The plants are operating well below the capacity, with only 340 employees. Lack of revenue from sales and export earnings have further increased the problems of maintenance and replacement.

Silos, Mills and Bakery Plant: This plant, owned and operated by the government, is under the management of the Ministry of Light Industries and Food. It has three major units: the silo, flour mill, and the bakery. The silo plant was built with Soviet assistance during 1976-1982 and started operation in 1982. It has a storage capacity of 40,000 mt. of wheat and a capacity of grinding 60 mt. of wheat per day. The bakery unit has a production capacity of 25 mt. of bread and other bakery products per day. Construction cost of the silos is estimated to be US$ 3.4 million. The construction cost of the other two units, i.e. the flour mill and the bakery, is US$ 1.6 million and US$ 2 million, respectively.

The operations of these plants entirely depends on the availability of wheat. Information on the production, operation and other activities of the plants in 1990 was not provided by the authority. However, sources from the Ministry of Planning indicate that in 1986/87 about 25,000 mt. of wheat flour and 6,270 mt. of bread and bakery products were produced by the mill and bakery units, while the output for 1987/88 was approximately 26,000 and 6,000 mt., respectively. The planned output for 1988/89 was 30,000 mt. of wheat flour and 8,000 mt. of bakery products. In 1990 there were 550 people employed in the plant.

VI.2.2 Small Scale, Handicrafts and Cottage Industries

Small scale, handicrafts and cottage industries are scattered throughout the province. Their contribution to employment generation is probably many times more than that of the industries in the organized sector, discussed in previous sections. Handicrafts production is usually done in individual households and most of the work is done by women and children. While the majority of these establishments are located in the rural areas, there are a few semi-organized and small scale industrial establishments also located in the urban centers. In Mazar there are a number of such industries, including fruit processing (especially raisins processing), vegetable oil extraction, carpet weaving, plastics making, cardboard making, ice plants, bakery units, textile embroidery, leather works, wood and stone carving, jewelry, electrical and electronic goods repair, furniture making, pottery and stone works. However, there is very little data available on these activities.

Table VI.3 Cotton Gin and Press Company, Mazar Purchase and Production, 1978-1989

Year	Total Purchase of Raw Cotton Cultivators (MT)	Ginned Cotton	Production (MT)			Cotton Seed Oil	Animal Feed	Soap	Seed Crust
			Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4				
1978	27,417	9,216	418	61	87	1,366	96	2,965	3,743
1979	28,447	9,346	482	66	89	1,572	112	3,437	4,251
1980	18,540	5,936	358	41	36	1,608	75	3,576	4,417
1981	11,453	3,582	230	24	22	819	91	2,070	2,450
1982	6,732	2,124	120	10	14	417	84	1,090	3,146
1983	9,014	2,654	126	15	16	570	30	1,451	1,776
1984	15,189	4,166	219	22	24	985	98	2,613	3,276
1985	12,505	5,167	288	84	86	1,114	46	2,779	3,342
1986	6,541	3,127	245	58	63	891	31	2,114	2,546
1987	6,543	2,365	115	41	36	570	18	1,295	1,597
1988	8,808	2,640	142	50	21	514	22	1,184	1,488
1989	2,736	951	45	21	14	256	10	590	729

Source: GOA, Mazar, Gin and Press Company, 1991

Among the handicrafts, the most important in the province are the carpet and rug weaving. The carpet weaving has a long history in Afghanistan which has been handed over from generation to generation. The best quality carpets in Balkh are made of wool from Karakul sheep raised at different locations within the province. A considerable share of Karakul sheep wool is produced by nomadic groups. The carpet weaving is mainly don by the Turkoman, Sarouq, and Uzbek tribes in the districts of Shur Tappeh, Dowlatabad, Char Bulaq, Kaldar, and Kholm. In these places, carpet weaving is a family affair.

There are three major carpet producing centers in the province namely Balkh, Mazar, and Barmazad. These places produce some of the best quality carpets known as

Mauri and Sarouq. Sarouq carpets are made by Sarouq and Turkoman tribes in the province. Most of these carpets are exported. It is said that prior to the war almost all urban areas had carpet trade centers, but at present only a few such centers exist and are located mainly in Mazar and the surrounding areas.

In addition to the carpets and rugs, Balkh province is also famous for the production of galeem, gowns, nomad (wollen mats), and silk fabrics.

The detailed statistical information with respect to the cottage industries and the activities carried out on household basis are not available, and no detailed survey in this regard has been conducted during the recent past in the province.

VII. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Development of an area requires a minimum of physical infrastructure as a pre-condition for implementation, sustainence and expansion of socio-economic activities and programmes. This include transport and communication systems, energy supply and distribution, water supply and distribution, housing, public buildings and construction facilities, etc. The conditions of some of these facilities in Balkh province are briefly reviewed in the following sections.

VII.1.1 Land Transport and Road Condition

In Balkh province, and for the country as a whole, roads are the principal mode of transportation for both internal and international traffic.

The length and condition of various roads is briefly discussed in the following account:

Mazar-Hairatan Road: It extends about 84 km from Mazar to Kholm and to the river port of Hairatan in the north. Due to the increasing importance of Kabul-Mazar and Kabul-Hairatan highway, mainly due to the diversion of trade from other traditional routes during the past 12 years, this road has been heavily protected and well maintained. It is estimated that about 2/3 of the total international cargo in 1990 moved through the river port of Hairatan. On the Russian side of the Amu River at Termez, the railway station links Afghanistan's land transport with other parts of the Soviet Union and Europe. The construction of a combined road and railway bridge (the so-called Friendship Bridge) across the Amu River at Hairatan with the Soviet Union's assistance in 1982 has further expanded the trade and traffic movement to and from the USSR.

Mazar-Balkh Road: This road extending about 22 km to the west connects Mazar with the district of Balkh. The road is paved, secure and in good condition. It is in the government controlled area.

Mazar-Nahre Shahi Road: This is about 6 km paved road and is in a good, secune condition, located in government controlled area.

Mazar-Dehdadi Road: This 20 km paved road connects Mazar with Dehdadi. It is secure and is in a good condition.

Mazar-Char Bulaq Road: A 44 km paved road that connects Mazar with the center of Char Bulaq district in the north-west. The road was reported to be secure and under the government control in 1990.

Mazar-Dawlatabad Road: It is a 42 km road, of which 20 km are paved and 22 km are unpaved. The road is reported to be secure and operational, but the unpaved section needs repair and maintenance.

Mazar-Char Kent Road: It is a 35 km road, of which 2 km are paved and the other 33 km are graveled. In 1990 most parts of this road were reported to be insecure, partially mined and controlled by the opposition groups.

Mazar-Chemtal Road: It is a 34 km road, of which 22 km are paved and reportedly secure. The other 12 km are unpaved and reported to be partially mined.

Mazar-Keshendeh Road: The city of Mazar and the center of Keshendeh, the utmost southern district of the province, are linked by this 92 km road. About 22 km of this road upto Chashmeh Shafaa are paved, reportedly secure and under government control. The remaining 70 km are graveled, partially mined, and reportedly controlled by the opposition groups.

Mazar-Shulgareh Road: The two places are connected by a 55 km road, about 22 km of which are paved and the other 33 km unpaved. The security condition of this road is reported to be unstable. The 33 km unpaved segment of this road is reported to be partially mined. This segment has often been controlled by different opposition groups.

Mazar-Kaldar Road: It has an 84 km paved section and a 55 km graveled section. The paved section of the road is reported to be relatively secure and operational. The second portion is mainly under the opposition control and mined in some places.

In addition, there are a number of tracks and dirt roads linking district centers, villages and other rural areas of the province. Most of these roads are not suitable for vehicles. Most parts of the districts of Keshendeh, Shulgareh, Shur Tappeh, Chemtal and Char Kent still remain out of the provincial road network and numerous villages remain isolated. The motorable roads, in many parts, need improvement and better maintenance.

The roads between Mazar city and other provincial/district centers, distances and approximate travel time are given in Table VII.1.

Passangers and goods transportation are done by both public and private sector enterprises. The relative share of each is not known, but indications are that public sector's share has increased during the last 10 years.

Passenger transport is generally operated by the government owned company named "Milli Bus Service" from the center of Mazar to the centers of Balkh and Dehdadi districts and to the river port of Hairatan. The company owns a fleet of 32 buses, but has

serious problems of maintenance, non-availability of spare parts and shortage of fuel. Despite the heavily subisized fares, people prefer to travel by buses operated by private companies.

Table VIII.1 Road Distances and Travel Time

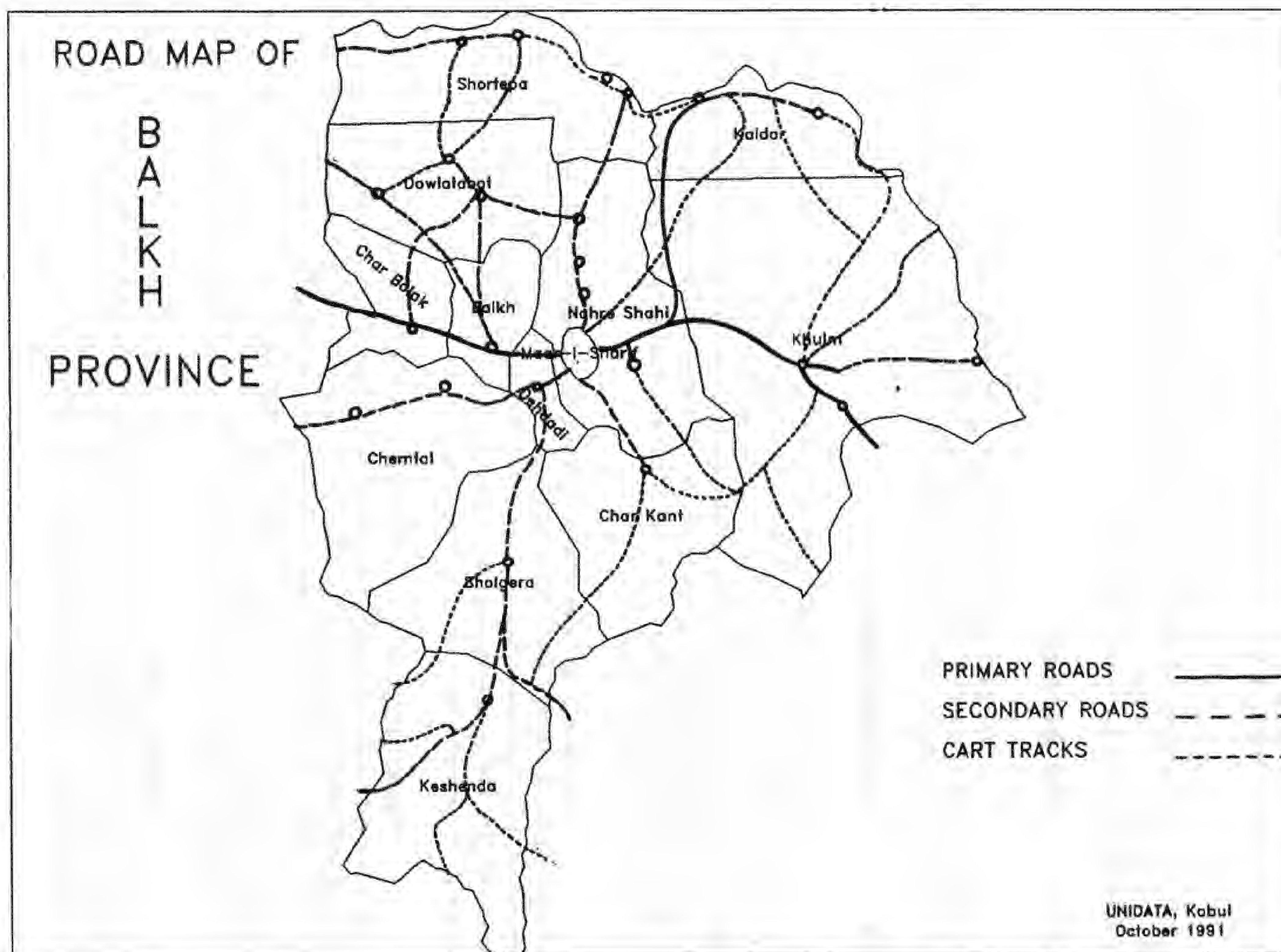
Mazar to	Contition	Distance (Km)	Time (Hours)
Shiberghan	Paved	132	2
Aqcha	Paved	80	1
Kabul	Paved	428	7
Pul-i-Khumri	Paved	202	2.5
Maimana (via Andkhoi)	Unpaved	341	10.5
Via Dasht-i-Laili	Unpaved	300	10
Hairatan	Paved	80	1
Termez	Paved	80	2

Source: UNIDATA, 1991

A considerable transportation is done through animals, mostly camels, donkeys and horses. Though present in urban areas as well, this method of transportation is more prevalent in the rural areas, especially on routes not yet served or connected by the provincial road network. The present road system in Balkh province is very deficient with respect to the delivery of food aid to isolated and needy villages. Except the main road linking Kabul with Mazar and Hairatan, other roads have been severely affected by the war. There is a need for urgent repair of the damaged roads, demining of some roads and construction of feeder roads.

VIII.1.2 Air Transport

In addition to being used by the military, the airport located in Mazar is used for cargo and passenger services and is currently linked to the cities of Kabul, Herat and Faizabad. The government owned airline "Ariana" operates daily flights between Kabul and Mazar via either Herat or Faizabad.


ROAD MAP OF
BALKH
PROVINCE
Shortepa
Kaldar
Dowlatabad
Char Bolak
Balkh
Nahre Shahi
Khulm
Dehdadi
Chemtal
Char Kent
Sholgera
Keshenda
PRIMARY ROADS
SECONDARY ROADS
CART TRACKS
UNIDATA, Kabul
October 1991

Since Mazar is one of the main bases for the UN operations in the northern provinces, the UN flight "Salam 01" operates twice a week between Kabul and Mazar.

Mazar airport, though meant for domestic civil aviation, has been heavily utilized for the military purposes as well. The airport runway is said to be in need of repair. The government has allocated a sum of US$ 100,000 (Indian aid) and 70 million Afghanis the development budget for this purpose.

VII.1.3 River Transport

River transport in Balkh province is available only on the Amu River for international traffic between Afghanistan and the USSR. The main river port is Hairatan, which is being administered by the Ports Department of the Ministry of Commerce.

VII.2 Telecommunication

The telecommunication system in Balkh province has also suffered severely from the war. Despite the increasing importance of Balkh province, particularly Mazar city as the second major urban center in the country, telecommunication services and facilities remain very inadequate. The municipal telecommunication center as well as the few post offices run by the government are far below the requirement of the population. Not only are the facilities insufficient but there is also an urgent need for proper maintenance and repair of the telecommunication facilities.

According to the Department of Telecommunication, there are 13 post offices in the province, of which 2 are located in Mazar. Eight of the other districts, as shown in Table VII.2, have one post office each while the remaining four districts have none at all. There are only 1810 telephones in the entire province of which 1,600 are in Mazar. Six districts in the province have no telephone at all.

Radio: A medium wave radio station was commissioned in 1983 in the city of Mazar. The unit is able to broadcast its programmes within a radius of about 100 km. In the beginning, the programmes were limited to a duration of one hour which was extended to 3 hours in 1984. With one hour news coverage linked to the Kabul radio, at present the radio is on the air for five hours daily broadcasting programmes in Dari, Pushtu, Uzbeki and Turkomani languages. Seven employees are working at the station. Lack of tape recorders, library, and proper instruments are said to be the main constraints for further improvement.

Television: Balkh Television Station began its programme in 1987 and its telecasts are effective within the radius of 25 km. Daily programmes are limited to 4 hours from 6 p.m. with an exception on Friday when programmes are telecast from 6 p.m. to 12 p.m. Programmes are presented in Pushtu and Dari languages.

Table VII.2 Post Offices and Telephones by District, 1990.

District	No. of Post Offices	No. of Telephones
Balkh	1	50
Char Bulaq	1	30
Char Kent	0	0
Chemtal	1	0
Dehdadi	1	50
Dawlatabad	1	20
Keshendeh	0	0
Kholm	1	50
Kaldar	1	10
Mazar	2	1,600
Nahre Shahi	0	0
Shulgareh	0	0
Shur Tappeh	1	0
Total	10	1,810

Source: GOA, Mazar, Department of Telecommunication, 1990

Newspapers: The daily newspaper called "Bydar", started in 1921 in Mazar, is published in Pashtu and Dari languages. The newspaper has a circulation of 7,000 and caters to the clients in the provinces of Balkh, Samangan, Jowzjan, and Kabul. The paper covers a variety of subjects such as current events, poems, health, social and political events etc. The press office has 16 employees. In addition, a weekly magazine called "Yaldoz" is published in Uzbeki language.

VII.3 Water Supply and Sanitation

Balkh River, originating from Bamyan area, is the main source of water in the province. The river at a point 15 km west of Mazar has an annual flow variation of 60 to 1,800 cubic meters per second. The river is the source of 18 major irrigation canals called

During the last decade, mainly as a consequence of the armed conflict, the city of Mazar has become a focal point of economic and commercial activities. The major highway connecting Kaubl City and Mazar through Salang Pass crosses the province all the way to Termez. The following table provides district-wise basic information on Balkh.

Table II.1 Basic Information on Balkh Province 1990.

District	Elevation above sea level (meters)	Area sq. km.	Number of villages			Density per sq.km.
			Total	Main	Sub	
Balkh	340	481	103	90	13	180
Char Bulaq	340	511	109	71	38	110
Char Kent	200	1,445	78	69	9	25
Chemtal	360	1,733	130	104	26	35
Dehdadi	360	233	23	23	0	173
Dowlatabad	315	864	72	59	13	94
Keshendeh	720	1,802	236	220	16	29
Kholm	420	4,247	43	43	0	15
Kaldar	305	758	14	10	4	18
Mazar	360	48	0	0	0	2,663
Marmol	1,800	390	6	6	0	20
Nahre-Shahi	260	1,381	21	21	0	28
Shulgareh	630	1,663	136	115	21	55
Shur Tappeh	280	1,284	19	18	1	24
Province	-	16,840	990	849	141	46

Source: GOA, Mazar, CSO, 1990

Currently, under the authority of the provincial Governor appointed by the Central Government, the province is administered by Deputy Governor, Woluswals (heads

"Hijda Nahr". Especially in the rural areas, these canals are not only the major source of water for irrigation but also for drinking and other domestic use. Lack of adequate and safe drinking water is becoming a growing problem all over the province.

In 1977, a group of experts from the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF and WHO conducted a reconnaissance survey in the Northern Afghanistan to investigate the possibilities of developing a regional water supply schemes. The scheme was aimed at serving a number of towns and groups of villages using common resources and systems of operation and maintenance. The expert group suggested two regional schemes, one in Kholm and the other in Balkh-Aqcha region. Estimates of the size, coverage and approximate preliminary costs were submitted to the government and the donor agencies. However, in view of the high costs involved, it was suggested that a modified version of the proposal should be prepared for further consideration by theMinistry of Public Health. The UN inter-regional adviser on water supply, invited by the UNDP, also expressed positive views about the proposal. However, it remains unknown as to what action has been taken since the submission of the final report in May 1980.

The two proposed regional water supply schemes for Kholm and Balkh-Aqcha cover an area stretching from the district of Kholm in the east of Balkh province (part of Samangan province at the time of the study) towards north-west up to Aqcha in Jowzjan province. Within Balkh province, the areas covered by the two schemes include all settlements in Kholm district (43 villages and Toshqurghan city), the districts of Mazar, Dehdadi, Nahre Shahi, Balkh, Char Bulaq, Chemtal and Dawlatabad. The ground water sources of the areas were studied by the UNICEF hydrologist and the Water and Soil Survey Department of the Ministry of Water and Power.

The present drinking water supply system in Mazar was designed and installed by the Japanese government more than 20 years ago. It has been augmented by the addition of new boreholes and a pipeline to the city's reservoir and water tower. Eleven deep wells feed either small localities or are connected to a reservoir with 1,700 cubic meters capacity, adjacent to the city's water tower. A small pumphouse lifts water from the reservoir to the tower which has a capacity of 50 cubic meters.

Total water supply is claimed to be 4,000 cubic meters per day and it is estimated that the network serves some 100,000 people via 3,750 house connections and 50 public taps.

The water table in Mazar is very low and the soil is of low permeability. Wells are a minimum of 36 meters deep and yields are low in the city center area. Water quality tests have not been carried out due to the lack of laboratory facilities.

Management of the drinking water system in Mazar is poor and maintenance

is carried out only when the system malfunctions. The plant operators, electricians and mechanics have limited training. There is no sewerage system in Balkh and the disposal is usually done into a ditch or by composting out in the street.

In March 1990 an OPS/UNDP mission visited various locations in Balkh and concluded that the provincial towns and villages have one problem in common, i.e. lack of adequate and safe drinking water. The misstion recommended that an adequate surface water supply for Mazar be designed and commissioned at the earliest opportunity on a cost sharing basis with the government.

VIII. HEALTH

VIII.1 Health Infrastructure and Health Conditions

Balkh province is said to have the second best health facilities after Kabul. However, most of these facilities are confined within the provincial center of Mazar. There are reportedly 16 hospitals in the province, out of which 9 are located in Mazar. Although they are called hospitals, 5 of them have no beds and no indoor treatment facilities. Of the remaining hospitals, only the Base Hospital run by the Ministry of Public Health could be considered a full-fledged facility. Rest of the 10 hospitals belong to the public sector enterprises and organizations, such as the Oil and Gas company, Balkh Textile Factory, Ministry of Interior, etc. The hospitals managed by the public sector organizations are small with 10-20 beds and mainly provide services to their own employees and their families. For the general public these hospitals provide only out-door services on a limited basis.

The Base Hospital in Mazar has 124 beds for indoor patients. The following table shows the number of patients who sought treatment from various clinics in the hospital and the actual number admitted during the year 1990.

Table VIII.1 Patients at the Base Hospital, 1990

Clinic	No. of Outdoor Patients	No. of Patients Admitted
Dental	6,917	Not available
EST	5,700	200
Eye	4,864	181
Antenatal	8,056	1,489
Children	46,390	1,780
Total	71,927	3,650

Source: GOA, Mazar, Base Hospital, 1990

The above data, obtained from the records kept at the Base Hospital, indicates that the hospital was able to provide indoor treatment to only 5% of the total number of outdoor patients. The data further indicates that over 64% of the patients seeking treatment were children below the age of 14 years, and of the total number of patients admitted for indoor treatment 49% were also children. A look at the total number of children brought

to the hospital for treatment, i.e. 46,390 and the actual number admitted for treatment, i.e. 1,780 or about 4%, clearly indicates the inadequacy of health services.

Though the figures on the prevelant diseases are not available, interviews with the medical personnel at the hospital indicate that most of the children were treated for water-borne diseases, polio, diphtheria and bronchitist. Some of these are vaccine preventable diseases.

The Base Hospital records show that during the three year period between 1988-1990, 366 persons had died at the hospital in Mazar. The following table shows the classification of the deaths by causes.

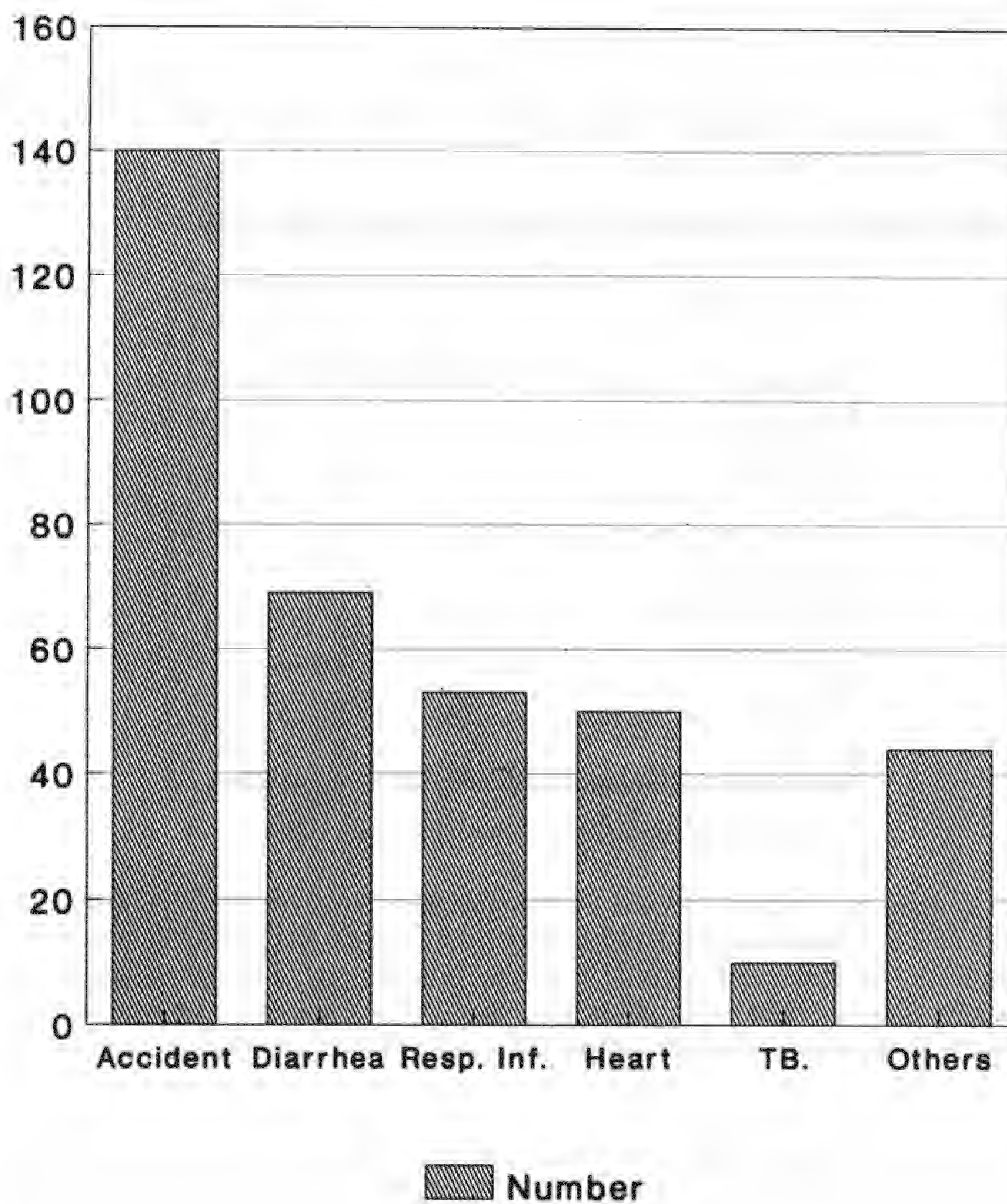
Table VIII.2 Deaths by Causes at the Base Hospital, 1988-1990

Causes of Death	No. of Deaths	Percentage
Accident	140	38.2
Diarrhea	69	19.0
Acute Respiratory Infection	53	14.4
Heart Disease	50	13.6
Tuberculosis	10	2.8
Others	44	12.0
Total	366	100.0

Source: GOA, Mazar, Base Hospital, 1990

As can be seen from the table, the majority of deaths at the Base Hospital have been due to accidents. The accident here refers mainly to the death caused by gunfire, mine explosions or rocketfire, all related to the on-going war. The next category of deaths is due to diarrhea and ARI related illnesses. Heart related illnesses also have caused 13.6% of the deaths. The 'others' category includes illnesses related to pregnancy, typhoid, hepatitis, etc.

These above figures on the causes of deaths are by no means representative at the provincial level. Health facilities in the rural areas either completely lack or have much less than the facilities available in Mazar. The figures provide only an indication of the magnitude of health related problems presently faced by the people of Balkh.


DEATHS BY CAUSES AT MAZAR BASE HOSPITAL
(1988 - 1990)
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Accident
Diarrhea
Resp. Inf.
Heart
TB.
Others
Number

The distribution of hospitals by district shows that out of the 13 districts, five have no hospitals and five districts have hospitals that do not have indoor treatment facilities. Many district hospitals actually have no operational existence.

Table VIII.3 District-wise Distribution of Hospitals

Districts	No. of Hospitals	No. of Beds
Balkh	1	10
Char Bulaq	1	-
Char Kent	-	-
Chemtal	1	-
Dehdadi	-	-
Dowlatabad	1	-
Keshendeh	-	-
Kholm	1	-
Kaldar	1	10
Mazar	9	189
Nahre Shahi	-	-
Sulgarah	1	-
Shur Tappeh	-	-
Total	16	209

Source: GOA, Mazar, Ministry of Public Health, 1990

Out of the 16 hospitals in Balkh 9 are located in Mazar. Of the total hospital beds, over 90% are also available in Mazar alone.

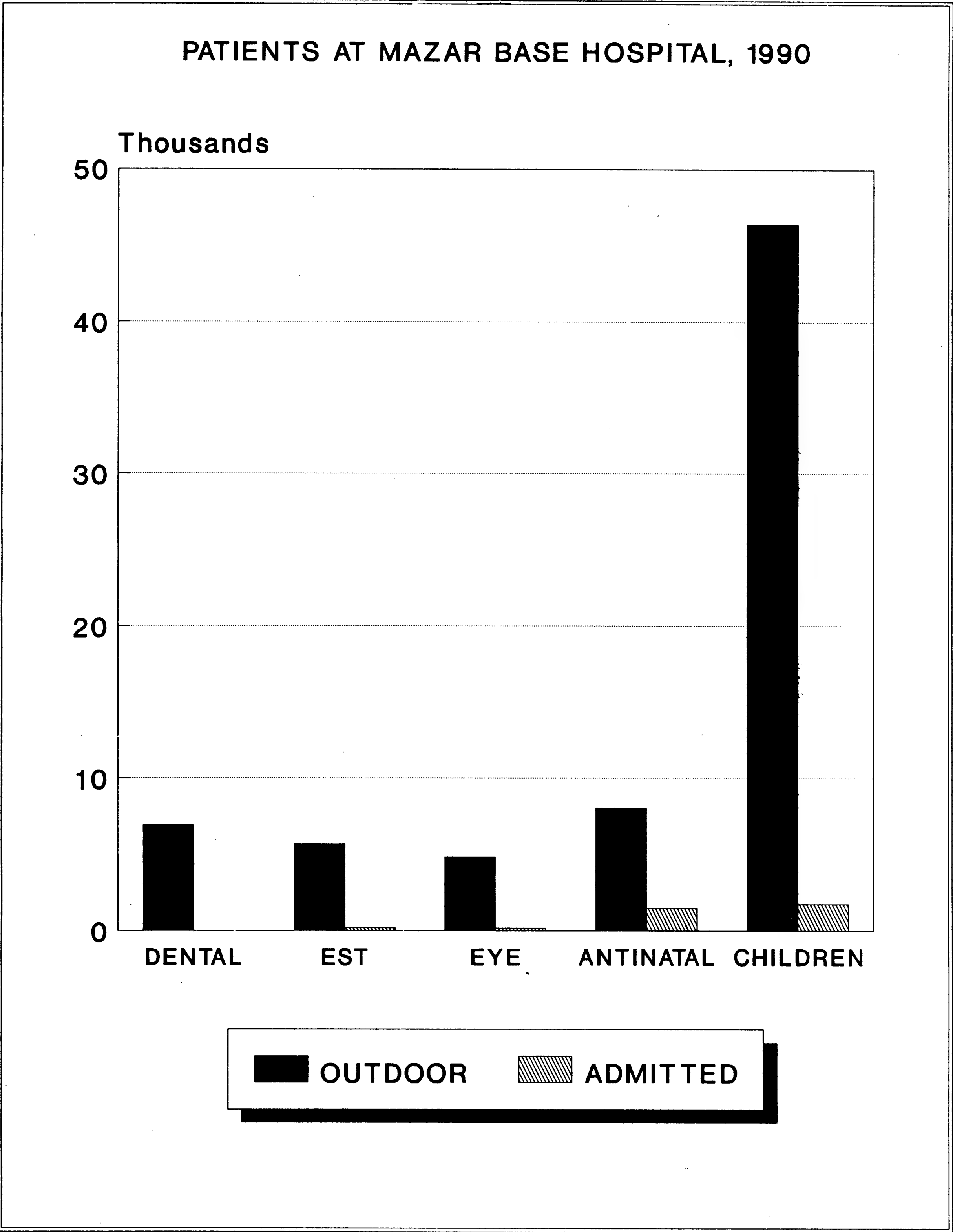
There are four X-ray units all of which belong to the hospitals in Mazar City: two at the Base Hospital and one each at the hospitals operated by the Fertilizer Factory and the Oil and Gas Company. Three ambulances available for emergency services also belong to the Base Hospital.

The WHO Database on health indicates that two hospitals are operational within the areas controlled by the opposition groups. One of these hospitals is being run by the Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) in Shulgareh. The other hospital located at Chemtal is being run by the Alliance Health Committee. Both hospitals are being supported by NGOs through cross-border assistance activities.

Table VIII.4 Location of Clinics and Other Health Facilities in Balkh

District	Clinics	BHC	PHC	Pharmacy	X-ray Unit
Balkh	3	1	-	6	-
Char Bulaq	1	1	-	-	-
Char Kent	-	-	-	-	-
Chemtal	1	1	-	-	-
Dehdadi	-	-	-	3	-
Dowlatabad	1	1	-	1	-
Keshendah	-	-	-	-	-
Kholm	2	1	-	3	-
Kaldar	1	1	-	-	-
Mazar	37	11	5	60	4
Nahre Shahi	-	-	-	-	-
Shulgara	1	1	-	1	-
Shur Tappeh	1	1	-	-	-
Total	48	19	5	74	4

Source: GOA, Mazar, Ministry of Public Health, 1990


PATIENTS AT MAZAR BASE HOSPITAL, 1990
Thousands
50
40
30
20
10
0
DENTAL
EST
EYE
ANTINATAL
CHILDREN
OUTDOOR
ADMITTED

VIII.2 Clinics and other Health Facilities

There are 48 clinics presently functioning within the government controlled areas of Balkh. However, 37 of these clinics are located within the provincial capital. Similarly, there are 19 Basic Health Centers (BHC) and 5 Public Health Centers (PHC) functioning within the government controlled areas of Balkh. In addition, there are 74 pharmacies of which only one is being operated by the government and the rest are owned and operated privately. The district-wise location of these health facilities is provided in Table VIII.4.

Table VIII.5 Medical Personnel in Balkh

District	Doctors	Para-Medical Personnel	Nurses	Mid-Wives
Balkh	3	2	2	2
Char Bulaq	-	1	1	1
Char Kent	-	-	-	-
Chemtal	-	1	1	1
Dehdadi	-	-	-	-
Dowlatabad	1	1	1	1
Keshendeh	-	-	-	-
Kholm	2	1	3	1
Kaldar	-	1	1	0
Mazar	72	5	59	42
Nahre Shahi	-	-	-	-
Shulgareh	-	1	1	-
Shur Tappeh	-	1	1	-
Total	78	14	70	48

Source: GOA, Mazar, Ministry of Public Health, 1990

In addition to the above, there are 13 clinics functioning in the opposition controlled areas. All of these clinics are supported and operated by the NGOs based in

Pakistan. The NGO supported clinics are located in the districts of Balkh, Dowlatabad, Sholgara and Char Bulaq.

VIII.3 Manpower Situation in Health Sector

Official sources indicate that there are 78 doctors, 70 nurses and 48 midwives working in hospitals and clinics located within the areas controlled by the government. Out of this number, 72 doctors, 59 nurses and 42 midwives are presently posted at various hospitals and clinics within the city of Mazar. That leaves only 6 doctors, 13 nurses and 6 midwives to serve the rest of the provincial population. The WHO Health Database indicates that 61 health professionals are engaged in health related assistance activities through Pakistan based NGOs in Balkh. This figure includes 3 doctors, 5 nurses, 2 vaccinators, 1 dentist and other health workers. The district-wise distribution of medical personnel within the government controlled areas in Balkh is given in Table VIII.5.

The location-specific break down of medical personnel fielded by the Pakistan based NGOs is not available, and hence not included in the table.

VIII.4 Health Training

The Faculty of Medicine at Balkh University, established in 1988, has an enrollment of 164 students. The Faculty has yet to produce medical doctors. Over 60% of the students come from Balkh province, and the rest from neighbouring provinces of Jowzjan, Saripul, Kunduz and Samangan. The following table provides further details on the composition of students and teachers at the Faculty.

Table VIII.6 Students/Teachers Composition at the Faculty of Medicine

	Male	(%)	Female	(%)	Total	(%)
No. of Teachers	18	(80)	2	(20)	20	(100)
No. of Students	115	(70)	49	(30)	164	(100)

Source: GOA, Mazar, Faculty of Medicine, 1990

In Afghanistan's socio-cultural context a fairly appreciable number of female students at the Faculty of Medicine is encouraging. However, the dismal conditions prevailing at the Faculty in terms of teaching materials, laboratory conditions and the quality of teaching itself raises serious questions on the quality of its product.

There is also a nursing school in the province located in Mazar. The school

of the districts), Alaqadars (heads of the sub-districts), and mayors of the cities and towns. In rural areas, power structures at formal and informal levels co-exist. The people of a village, or a cluster of villages, select a Qaryadar (also known as Mailk or Arbab) as headman by common consent at an open council (majlis) of adult males. He serves as long as he can satisfy his constituents and is essentially a link between his people and others, especially the government officials. Local landlords (Zamindars) and religious leaders still have considerable power. In some cities and towns the elected headmen help control prices and regulate trade and commerce.

Table II.2 Power Distribution Between Various Groups

District	Groups in Control
Mazar	Government
Nahre Shahi	Government
Dehdadi	Government
Char Bulaq	Government, Harakat, Mahaz, Hezbi Islami, Wahdat, Jamiat
Balkh	Government, Jamiat, Hezbi Islami
Shur Tappeh	Government, Jamiat
Dowlatabad	Government, Jamiat, Harakat, Mahaz, Wahdat, Nijat-i-Meli
Char Kent	Harakat, Jamiat, Wahdat
Shulgareh	Wahdat, Jamiat, Harakat
Chemtal	Hezbi Islami, Harakat, Mahaz, Jamiat, Wahdat
Marmol	Jamiat
Kaldar	Government, Jamiat, Hezbi Islami
Kholm	Government, Jamiat, Harakat, Hezbi Islami
Keshendeh	Jamiat, Hezbi Islami, Wahdat

Source: UNIDATA, 1991

There are various resistance groups in Balkh who have established their own administrative control over a large part of the province. Their areas of command and influence varies from one area to another and from time to time. Parties or groups that have complete or partial control of various districts within Balkh rovince are listed in Table II.2.

functions under the Institute of Intermediate Medical Education. The school, with separate classes for male and female nurses, admits high school graduates for the three years course. Details on the nursing school are provided in Table VIII.7.

What is interesting in the table is that while the proportion of female teachers at the nursing school is 71 percent, the female students account for only 13 percent. This might indicate an implicit socio-cultural bias against female education in general and the nursing education for females in particular.

Table VIII.7 Students/Teachers at the Nursing School

	Male	(%)	Female	(%)	Total	(%)
No. of Teachers	5	(29)	12	(71)	17	(100)
No. of Students	139	(87)	21	(13)	160	(100)

Source: GOA, Mazar, Nursing School, 1990

The following table provides comparative figures on health facilities, institutions and personnel in 1978 and 1990. The 1990 figures include data from the government as well as the cross-border NGO sources.

The 1978 figures on paramedics also include figures on nurses and midwives; the exact breakdown on the various categories of medical personnel under this item was not available.

In terms of numbers, the 1990 figures indicate a marked improvement in personnel and facilities in the health sector in Balkh. However, due to the ravages of the long-drawn war, it is highly questionable whether the figures provide any indication regarding the quality of health services available to the people of the province. Interviews with people in Mazar and at various other locations reveal that the health facilities provided much better services in 1978 than at present. This only reinforces the fact that the magnitude of the assistance needed in the health sector is massive.

Table VIII.8 Health Facilities in 1978 and 1990

Item	1978	1990		
		Govt.	NGO	Total
Doctors	19	78	3	81
Paramedics	58	14	53	67
Nurses	-	70	5	75
Midwives	-	48	-	48
Hospitals	2	16	2	18
Beds	150	209	-	209
Clinics	3	48	17	65
Basic Health Centers	2	19	-	19
Public Health Centers	-	5	-	5
X-ray Units	2	4	1	5
Pharmacies (Government)	1	1	-	1
Pharmacies (Private)	30	74	-	74

Source: GOA, Mazar, Ministry of Public Health, 1990

One pertinent aspect of the health manpower that needs to be mentioned here concerns the growing participation of women in health activities. For example, of the 19 doctors in 1978 only 3 (15 percent) were females. In 1990, however, of the 78 doctors in Balkh, 26 (over 33 percent) are females. Similarly, among the para-medical personnel (including nurses and midwives) in 1978 only 10 out of 58 (17 percent) were females, whereas in 1990 the number of female paramedical personnels in Balkh had gone up to 80 out of 132 (over 60 percent). The growing female participation is positive especially regarding programmes in health aimed at women and children.

VIII.5 Condition of Areas/Sectors Affecting Health

Almost every sector, of course, has a direct or indirect impact on the health conditions of a given population. However, the analysis here is limited to the areas and/or sectors that have immediate and direct effect on health; namely, the source of drinking

water, toilet facilities and source of cooking. The conditions in each of these three areas is summarized below. The data on these areas is based on the 1984 Household Survey conducted by the Central Statistics Office in Mazar.

Drinking Water: The following table indicates the number of families and people using different sources of water for drinking and other domestic use, e.g. washing, cleaning, etc.

As the table indicates, majority of the population in Mazar does not have access to potable water. The untreated water from wells, canals and sources other than tapwater affects the health of a large segment of the population. Moreover, even the tapwater is not treated and cannot be considered safe. Since 1984, the situation has obviously detoriated further due to the influx of an estimated 150,000 additional people in Mazar.

Table VIII.9 Sources of Drinking Water in Mazar

	Total	Tapwater	Wells	Canals	Others
No. of Households	17,604	5,674	7,077	2,076	2,777
(Percentage)	(100)	(32.0)	(40.0)	(12.0)	(16.0)
Total Population	96,995	29,972	40,138	11,641	15,244
(Percentage)	(100)	(31.0)	(41.0)	(12.0)	(16.0)

Source: GOA, Mazar, CSO, Household Survey, 1984

Table.VIII.10 Toilet Facilities in Mazar

	Total	Western Type	Latrine	Others
Living Units	12,683	181	11,794	708
(Percentage)	(100)	(1.4)	(93.0)	(5.6)
Population	96,995	1,219	92,004	3,772
(Percentage)	(100)	(1.2)	(94.8)	(4.0)

Source: GOA, Mazar, CSO, Household Survey, 1984

Toilet Facilities: There is no sewrage system in Balkh including the major cities such as Mazar. Human waste, in this regard, presents a health hazard. Of the 12,543 living units surveyed in Mazar by the Central Statistics Office in 1984 the results showed the following toilet facilities in use.

As indicated in the table, an overwhelming majority of the people in Mazar use latrines. Traditional latrines in Afghanistan are located within the residential compound and waste is left on open ground. Four percent of the population in Mazar does not even have latrines.

Sources of Cooking: Another important area, which has an impact on health especially of women and children, is the source of cooking.

Here again an overwhelming majority of the households depend on the wood to cook their daily meals. Considering the traditional construction of houses with few windows and little or no cross ventilation, smoke related infections among women and children can be expected. The Base Hospital records indicate that of the 4,864 cases of eye infections reported at the eye clinic, over 60% (or 2,918) were caused by or related to smoke. Similarly, 14 percent of the deaths recorded at the Base Hospital during the three year period of 1988-1990 were due to Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI).

Table VIII.11 Sources of Cooking in Mazar

	Total	Electricity	Kerosene	Coal	Wood	Others
No. of Households	17,646	234	1,659	1,698	10,625	3,430
(Percentage)	(100)	(1.3)	(9.4)	(9.7)	(60.2)	(19.4)
Population	96,995	779	7,120	8,413	62,602	18,081
(Percentage)	(100)	(0.8)	(7.3)	(8.7)	(64.6)	(18.6)

Source: GOA, Mazar, CSO, Household Survey, 1984

IX. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Like other sectors, the education sector in Balkh has also been severely affected by the long-drawn conflict. Even in urban areas, where the number of schools and students have proliferated, the quality of education has drastically declined. The following table shows the present status of education at primary and secondary levels in various districts of Balkh.

Table IX.1 Status of Primary Education by District, 1990

District	No. of Schools			No. of Students			No. of Teachers		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Male	Female	Total
Balkh	11	2	13	2,113	138	2,251	58	-	58
Char Bulaq	2	-	2	130	-	130	8	-	8
Char Kent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chemtal	5	1	6	761	12	773	27	1	28
Dehdadi	6	3	9	1,724	901	2,625	62	30	92
Dowlatabad	-	-	-	310	117	427	3	3	6
Keshendeh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kholm	8	-	8	1,545	-	1,545	35	-	35
Kaldar	1	-	1	69	-	69	3	-	3
Mazar	18	11	29	13,577	11,180	24,757	33	723	756
Nahre Shahi	10	1	11	2,511	193	2,704	73	9	82
Shulgareh	1	-	1	65	-	65	3	-	3
Shur Tappeh	5	-	5	225	-	225	8	-	8
Total	67	18	85	23,030	12,541	35,571	313	776	1,079

Source: GOA, Ministry of Education, 1990

As inferred from the table, the average number of students per school is 418. Female students per school out-number the male students by over 1 to 2 ratio. This obviously means that the girls schools are over-crowded and additional physical facilities are urgently

needed there. The student/teacher ratio at the primary school level stands at 1 to 33, while the percentage of male and female teachers is 29% and 71%, respectively.

The following table provides district-wise information on the status of secondary education (grades 7-12) in Balkh.

Table IX.2 Status of Secondary Education by District, 1990

District	No. of Schools			No. of Students			No. of Teachers		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Male	Female	Total
Balkh	2	1	3	1,377	635	2,012	38	34	72
Char Bulaq	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Char Kent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chemtal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dehdadi	3	1	4	2,879	1,925	4,804	68	94	162
Dowlatabad	1	-	1	27	17	44	2	9	11
Keshendeh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kholm	1	-	1	149	-	149	10	-	10
Kaldar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mazar	6	3	9	4,521	5,869	10,390	94	449	543
Nahre Shahi	2	-	2	796	-	796	50	4	54
Shulgareh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shur Tappeh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	15	5	20	9,749	8,446	18,195	262	590	852

Source: GOA, Ministry of Education, 1990

As the table indicates, 53% of the secondary school student population is of boys whereas the rest, i.e. 46% is of girls. However, a look at the number of schools for boys (15) and girls (5) indicate a much crowded schooling facilities for the girls. Of the total secondary school teachers, 69% are females while the rest are males. The student/teacher ratio at the secondary school stands at 1 to 21, a much better ratio than at the level of primary schools. At both levels of education, i.e. primary and secondary, female teachers

outnumber the male teachers.

Table IX.3 Primary Education in Balkh, 1978-1990

Year (%)	No. of Schools			No. of Students			No. of Teachers		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Male	Female	Total
1978	163	36	199	36,905	12,627	49,532	1,250	251	1,501
(%)	(82)	(18)	(100)	(75)	(25)	(100)	(83)	(17)	(100)
1990	67	18	85	23,030	12,541	35,571	313	766	1,079
(%)	(79)	(21)	(100)	(65)	(35)	(100)	(29)	(71)	(100)

Source: UNIDATA, 1990

As the figures in the above table indicate, the war seems to have a very severe impact on the primary education system in Balkh. The number of primary schools, both for boys and girls, have dropped from 199 in 1978 to 85 in 1990, a decline of 57%. Similarly, the student enrollment and the number of primary school teachers have also declined by 28% each. During the last 12 years, though the number of girls in primary schools have remained nearly unchanged, the number of primary schools for girls have dropped from 36 to 18, a 50 percent decline. On the other hand, however, the number of female primary school teachers has gone up by over 200 percent, while the number of male primary school teachers has declined from 1,250 in 1978 to 313 in 1990, 75%.

The changes in the situation concerning the secondary school education, as the Table IX.4 indicates, also follow a similar pattern.

Although the teacher-student ratio in the secondary schools in Balkh during the last twelve years has remained the same (1:21), the number of students as well as teachers has increased by over 300 percent during the same period. Another important facet of the above statistics is that in terms of percentage, boys enrollment as compared to female enrollment in secondary schools has declined from 85 percent in 1978 to 54 percent in 1990. Similarly, in relation to the total number, the number of male teachers as compared to female teachers have also declined, from 81 percent in 1978 to 31 percent in 1990. The decline in both categories seems to have been compensated by the higher percentage of girl students and female teachers in the secondary schools in Balkh. As can be seen in Table IX.4 the girls enrollment rose from 643 in 1978 to 8,446 in 1990. Similarly the total number of female teachers in the secondary schools in Balkh grew from 39 in 1978 to 590 in 1990.

Table IX.4 Secondary Education in Balkh, 1978-1990

Year (%)	No. of Schools			No. of Students			No. of Teachers		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Male	Female	Total
1978	17	4	21	3,617	643	4,260	170	39	209
(%)	(81)	(19)	(100)	(85)	(15)	(100)	(81)	(19)	(100)
1990	15	5	20	9,749	8,446	18,195	262	590	852
(%)	(75)	(25)	(100)	(54)	(46)	(100)	(31)	(69)	(100)

Source: UNIDATA, 1990

During the last ten years the number of secondary schools in Balkh declined by one. The physical facilities that were designed to accommodate only a limited number of students had to cope up with over 300 percent increase in the student population. In the case of primary schools, though the number of students decreased from 49,532 in 1978 to 35,571 in 1990, by 28 percent, commensurately the number of primary schools also decreased from 199 to 85, by over 57 percent.

In terms of the effects of the war, although Balkh has suffered comparatively less than most of the eastern provinces, nonetheless the scars of the war are quite visible. The drop in the number of male students and teacher is reflective of the fact that many of them either had to join the military service or left Balkh for elsewhere. The refugee data supports this assumption.

The war has most severely affected the education system in the rural areas. For example, of the 13 districts Char Kent and Keshendah have no primary schools. Similarly, seven districts do not have a secondary school.

The urban areas of the province, mainly the cities of Mazar, Balkh, Dehdadi and Nahre Shahi, have registered an exceptionally high rate of growth of primary and secondary level student populations. This may be due to the fact that a sizable number of people have been campelled to migrate from rural areas to the relatively safer urban localities.

IX.1 Vocational and Technical Education

Balkh has been one of the few provinces besides Kabul where major technical and vocational education started before the revolution in 1978. Mazar, where most of these

facilities are located, was intended and still serves as the focal point for the entire northern region in this regard.

Oil and Gas Technicum: The Oil and Gas Technicum was established in 1971 with assistance from the USSR. It's main purpose has been to prepare technicians in various fields related to oil and gas exploration, production and operation of facilities and factories. The Technicum provides training in six major areas namely geology, mine extraction, chemistry and technology, industrial equipment handling, oil and gas exploration and inorganic chemistry. Students with high school diploma are admitted for five years training. Successful students are awarded a certificate at the end of the training. Details on the student enrollment at the Oil and Gas Technicum during various academic years since 1978 (for which reliable data is available) is provided in the following table.

Table IX.5 Student Enrollment at the Oil and Gas Technicum

Year	1978	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	Total
Enrollment	585	519	680	327	307	219	240	203	3,080
Graduates	180	33	81	48	84	73	58	92	6,499

Source: UNIDATA, 1990

The students of the Technicum are required to obtain practical training as part of the course. The Technicum arranges practical training of six months or more, depending on the subject, at various industrial establishments including the Gas Enterprise, Ghory Cement Factory, Karkar Mines, Fertilizer Factory etc., mostly located in and around the city of Mazar.

In March 1991, the Technicum claimed to have an enrollment of 800 students in the six areas of training. Althourh the figures for the years 1979 to 1983 are missing, the figures from 1984 to 1990 indicate a very low percentage of graduates vis-a-vis the total enrollment, i.e. 2,495 vs. 469. This low percentage of graduates (only 19%) could be due to a very high student attrition rate, which could be directly attributed to the long-drawn war.

As indicated by the number of teaching staff, Soviet assistance to the Technicum is considerable. At different periods before the Soviet military withdrawal in February 1989, almost 40% of the teaching staff at the Technicum were either from the Soviet Union or from East European countries.

The following table presents further details on the teaching staff at the Technicum in 1978 and 1990. It is interesting to note that the number of female teachers in

the past 12 years has grown from one to 16. However, the student population at the Technicum is all male.

Table IX.6 Teaching Staff at the Technicum

Year (%)	Male	Female	Total
1978	56	1	57
(%)	(98)	(2)	(100)
1990	60	16	76
(%)	(79)	(21)	(100)

Source: UNIDATA, 1990

Institute of Teachers Training: The Institute of Teachers Training functions under the Ministry of Education. Its primary purpose is to provide in-service training to teachers of primary and secondary schools and to train fresh high school graduates as primary school teachers. Table IX.7 provides a comparative picture on student population at different periods for which data is available.

Table IX.7 Students at the Institute of Teachers Training

	1978	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	Total
Enrollment	585	413	471	321	471	384	382	454	3,481
Graduates	321	101	112	197	20	56	78	144	1,029

Source: UNIDATA, 1990

As in case of the Oil and Gas Technicum, the figures on enrollment and the actual graduates have a wide margin. During 1984-1990 the total enrollment was 2,896 of which only 708 students successfully completed the training, i.e. a mere 24 percent. The high drop out rate could be mainly attributed to the on-going war.

A comparative look at the number of teaching staff in 1978 and 1990 indicates that the number of teacher at the Institute has increased by four. Table IX.8 provides further details in this regard.

Though the number of teachers at ITT increased only by four in the twelve

Administratively, Balkh province is divided into 14 districts. Marmol, which was previously part of Nahre Shahi district has been recently made a separate district. The districts of Kaldar and Kholm, previously part of neighbouring Samangan province, have been amalgamated to Balkh during the last part of 1980's. At present Balkh province is comprised of 990 villages out of which 849 are main villages and 141 are sub-villages.

II.2 The Population

The first ever population census in Afghanistan was conducted in 1979, according to which the total settled population of the province was 569,225. Adding to it the population of the districts of Kholm (50,367) and Kaldar (10,891) that were later annexed to the province, the total population of Balkh for 1979 comes to 630,483.

Since 1979 there has been no population census or survey, but various estimates have been made. Official estimate of the settled population for 1990 is 768,200 which is close to the UNIDATA's estimate of 779,747. Out of the total settled population about 75% is estimated to be living mainly in the city of Mazar and in the towns of Kholm, Balkh and Dehadi.

As a result of the prolonged conflict, about 47,000 refugees are reported to be in Pakistan and Iran. They form about 5% of the province population. Most of the refugees are living in Pakistan. Refugees from Balkh in Iran are estimated to be only 2,600.

In addition to the externally displaced population, it is claimed that a considerable number of persons have displaced internally and have moved to urban centers of the province. The exact number of internally displaced persons is not known. Estimates suggest that over 200,000 people have migrated to Mazar alone for shelter and livelihood.

The major ethnic groups in the province are Tajiks and Pushtoons, while Uzbek, Hazaras, Turkomans and Sadats are in minority.

II.3 The Economy

Although the province of Balkh, especially the city of Mazar, has become a focal point of economic activities in recent years, agriculture still remains the predominant economic sector. The province, similar to the other northern provinces, has traditionally been a food grain surplus area. Agriculture, including animal husbandry, provides livelihood to the majority of the province's population.

The main crops grown in the province are wheat, cotton, barley, rice and a variety of fruits and vegetables. The province is famous for its melon, almond, and pomegranates. However, damage to irrigation facilities due to the war, lack of proper

years period, the ratio of female teachers improved appreciably.

Table IX.8 Teachers at the Institute of Teachers Training

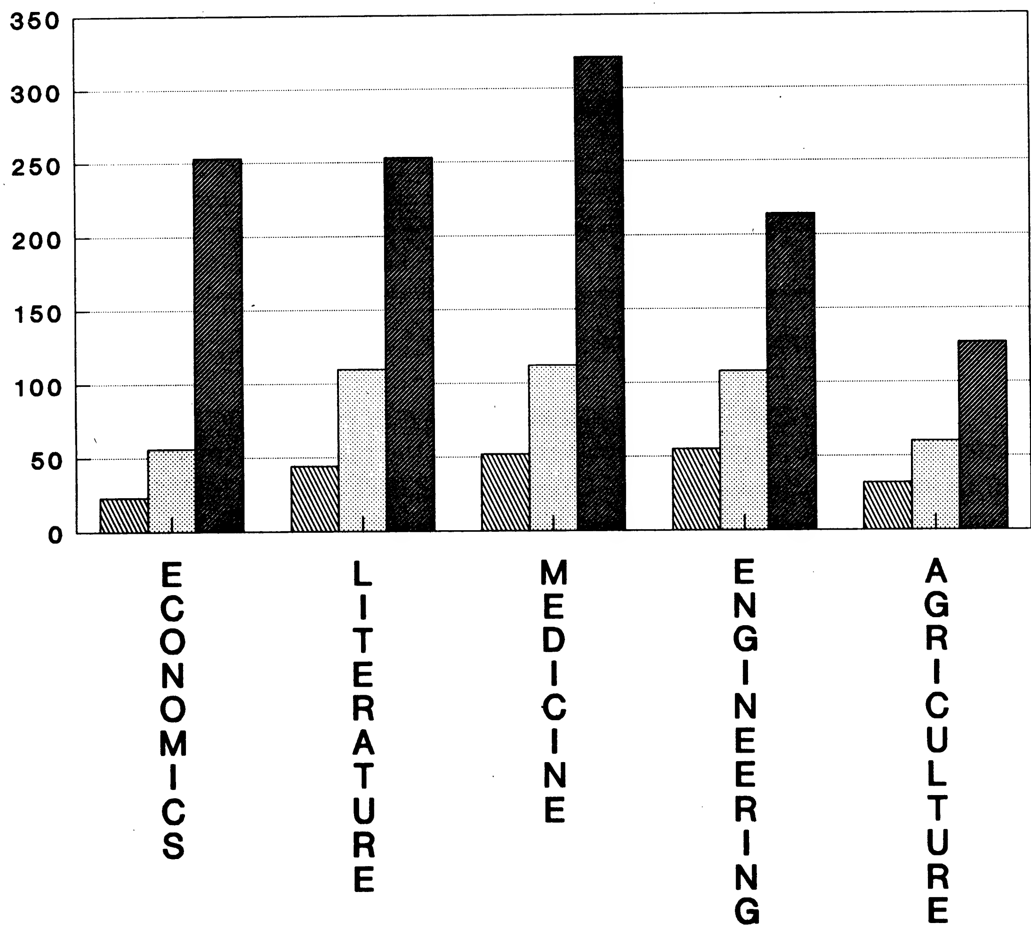
	1978		1990	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Male Teachers	36	(95)	32	(76)
Female Teachers	2	(5)	10	(24)
Total	38	(100)	42	(100)

Source: UNIDATA, 1990

IX.2 University Education

The University of Balkh, one of the four universities in Afghanistan, is located in Mazar. The university was established in 1988 with the purpose of serving the higher educational needs of the people in the northern provinces. The university has five faculties namely, economics, literature, medicine, engineering and agriculture. Student earollment during the period 1988-1990 within the faculties is given in Table IX.9.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT BALKH UNIVERSITY
(1988 - 1990)



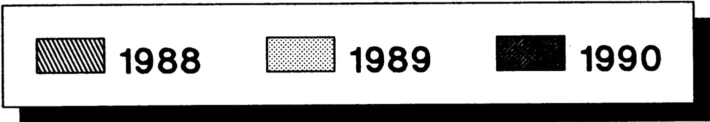


Table IX.9 Student Enrollment at Balkh University

Faculty	1988	1989	1990
Economics	23	56	253
Literature	44	110	253
Medicine	52	112	321
Engineering	55	108	214
Agriculture	32	60	127
Total	206	446	1,168

Source: UNIDATA, 1990

More than five fold increase in the student population within the three year period seems remarkable. However, a closer look at the existing facilities, both teaching as well as infrastructural, reveals that the University of Balkh is not fully capable to impart quality education. Many students openly admit that they are there to avoid the military service. As per the government regulation university students are deferred from the compulsory military service until the age of 27. Furthermore, the existence of opposing ideological groups within the university has created an entirely unconducive atmosphere both for teachers and students.

The university of Balkh has 37 faculty members in its teaching staff. Eight of them are female teachers.

IX.3 Other Educational and Training Programmes

IX.3.1 Literacy Programme

There are two types of literacy programmes presently run by the central government within the jurisdiction of the government controlled areas. The functional literacy programme focuses on the development of reading skills and training in various skills, e.g. sewing, carpet weaving, cooking, etc. Since 1987 many courses have been conducted under this programme in Mazar and Dehdadi districts. The following figures provided by the government indicate the number of individuals trained under this programme.

Table IX.10 Persons Trained in Literacy Programme

District	Male	Female	Total
Mazar	11	24	35
Dehdadi	14	38	52

Source: UNIDATA, 1990

The second literacy programme called General Literacy Programme, emphasizes mainly on learning to read Quran. During 1990 the government claims to have trained 248 men from various districts of Balkh province under this programme.

IX.3.2 Kindergartens

According to the government sources there are 41 kindergartens functioning in and around the city of Mazar. These kindergartens are being run by leading industrial establishments and public institutions. The government record shows that 1,862 children were enrolled in these kindergartens in 1990.

IX.3.3 Madrassas/Religious Education

There is one religious school in Mazar with 36 teachers and 717 students. Regardless of the political beliefs and belonging, most of the leading villages and localities in the province have at least one Madrassa. Generally the Madrassas in the rural areas are based in the premises of a mosque and are run by the local Mullah, the religious leader. According to informed sources there are approximately 100 functioning Madrassas in the province.

X. DISTRICT PROFILES

X.1 MAZAR-I-SHARIF CITY

X.1.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Mazar
Mean Altitude:	360 meters
Land Area:	48 sq. km.
Population (1990):	127,389
Population Density:	2,654 per sq. km.
Main Economic Activities:	Trade, industry and services
School Enrollment Ratio:	70% (Primary)
Number of Hospital Beds:	22.6 per 10,000 population
Number of Doctors:	5.6 per 10,000 population

X.1.2 Background

Mazar city is laid out in a grid pattern with the Holy Shrine of Hazrat Ali and the Blue Mosque in the center. It is the second major city in the country. As a consequence of the war Mazar has become a focal point of economic and commercial activities. The diversion of trade routes from south and north-eastern direction through Pakistan to northern direction especially via Hairatan - Termez river ports through the Soviet Union, has been one of the major factor for the increasing importance of Mazar. The city in particular has been utilized as a major base for the protection of the gas and oil fields in Jowzjan and the gas pipelines to the USSR border and to the Fertilizer and Power Plants in Dehdadi. It is claimed that the population of the city, due to its relatively more secure conditions, has increased by 100,000 -200,000 people who have migrated from other parts of the country during the past 12 years of the conflict.

Mazar city is also used as a base for distribution of commodity assistance to the northern region by the UN agencies. UNOCA, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP/OPS, FAO, UNHCR, and ICRC offices in the city have been active in implementing relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes throughout the northern provinces.

X.1.3 Population

According to the Census of 1979, population of Mazar was 103,372. Estimates for 1990 range from 127,389 (UNIDATA) to 134,100 (CSO). With an area of 48 sq. km., these figures indicate an average population density of 2,654 to 2,729 per square kilometer.

Major ethnic groups in Mazar are Tajiks, Pashtuns, Uzbeks, Hazaras, and

Sadats. However, as mentioned earlier, a considerable but unknown number of internally displaced people have also moved into the city for security and economic reasons. The city authorities claim that the district population has approached to about 300,000. Study on the size and nature of actually displaced population require a comprehensive survey. However, Kart-i-Sulh (Locality of Peace), a suburb of Mazar-i-Sharif built in the east of the city, provides shelter for most of the people who have migrated from the surrounding areas. The population of Karta-i-Sulh is reported to be about 100,000. The UNHCR Refugee Origin Survey has reported that only about 4,381 refugees from Mazar are in Pakistan. This is only 3.3 percent of the city population. No refugees from Mazar are reported to be in Iran. According to the UNHCR sources, in 1990 about 11,660 returnees both from Pakistan and Iran have passed through Peace Guest House in Mazar, of which 1,894 returnees were from Balkh province. From January to July 1991 the following number of returnees to Balkh Province have been reported.

Month	Returnees from:		Total
	Pakistan	Iran	
January	05	50	55
February	-	-	-
March	16	74	90
April	27	10	37
May	69	-	69
June	98	65	163

Source: UNHCR, Kabul, 1991

X.1.4 Main Economic Activities

Mazar, being the second largest city in the country and with better security conditions, has become the focal point of economic and commercial activities in recent years. A number of industrial plants are located in or around the city. The only Fertilizer and Thermal Power Plant of the country is located about 20 km. from the city center. Balkh Textile Plant with a production capacity of 22 million square meters of cotton fabric per year is located in the south-western part of Mazar. Mazar Silo, with a daily production capacity of 25 mt. of bakery products, and the flour mill, a storage capacity of 40,000 mt. of wheat, are located in the southern part of the city within about 5 km. from the city center. The Gin and Press Plants, also located in Mazar produce pressed cotton, cotton seeds, oil and other by-products such as soap and animal feed.

In addition, there are a number of small scale industrial establishments and handicrafts, all or most of them managed by the private sector. The industries are mostly agro-based and depend on the performance of agriculture and animal husbandry sector. With the set-back in the agricultural output, most industrial establishments in Mazar are operating far below their production capacity. In addition to the shortage of raw materials they also have difficulties in obtaining spare parts and ensuring proper maintenance. Shortage of skilled labour, financial resources and credit facilities are also common problems. In addition, problems of transportation and insecure road conditions have proved additional difficulties in the production process.

X.1.5 Road Transportation

The length of all types of roads within the city of Mazar is about 222 km. Of this, 32 km. are primary asphalt, 150 km are secondary asphalt, 35 km are primary gravel and 5 km are unpaved roads.

The primary paved roads in the city are: the road around the Blue Mosque (6 km.), city center to the airport road (12 km.), Balkh road (3 km.), Dehdadi road (3 km.), Mahbas road (5 km.) and Aziz Abad road (3 km.).

X.1.6 Communication

According to the Department of Telecommunication, there are 9 post offices in Mazar city. There are only 1,810 telephones in the whole province of which of 1,600 are in Mazar.

Radio: A medium wave transmitter "Radio Balkh Station" was commissioned in 1983 in Mazar. The radio broadcast programmes within a radius of about 100 km. for six hours daily.

Television: Balkh Television Station commenced operation in 1987 and its telecasts are effective within a radius of 25 km. Daily programmes in Pashto and Dari are limited to 4 hours (Friday, 6 hours)

Newspapers: A daily newspaper by the name of "Bydar" is published in Pashtu and Dari. A weekly paper called "Yaldoz" is also published in Uzbeki language.

X.1.7 Hotels and Guest Houses

Mazar Hotel has 27 rooms of which 10 rooms have attached bathroom facility. The hotel, located in the city center managed by the Council of Watan Party, has a swimming pool and a restaurant. There are also five privately owned hotels in Mazar. A

number of local guest houses (Sarai) in the city of Mazar provide accommodation for the people who come on businesses from other provinces. They are mud type local structures. In addition a number of organizations have their own guest houses, including UNOCA, UNICEF, UNV, Oil and Gas Exploration Department, Fertilizer and Power Plants, Textile Company and Gin and Press Factory.

X.1.8 Water Supply and Sanitation

The water network in Mazar has a production capacity of about 4,000 cubic meters per day and serves some 100,000 people via 3,750 house connections and 50 public taps. In 2 sections out of the 4 in the city water is available for 2 to 3 hours every day, while in the remaining two sections water is provided for only 2 hours an alternate days. An OPS mission made a study of the water supply network in March 1990.

The mission observes that the water reservoir is therefore receiving a maximum flow of about 30 l/s and the consultants observed that distribution was actually taking place over a 6 hour period using two 30 l/s pumps. This gives an actual quantity per day of 1,300 cubic meters. The reservoir is filled during the night and morning and the pump station operates from 10 am. to 4 pm. The amount distributed is about 15 liters per person per day.

The OPS mission further reports that the water table in Mazar is very low and the soil is of low permeability. Wells are a minimum of 36 m. deep and yields are low in the town area. Water quality tests have not been carried out due to lack of facilities.

Management of the system is poor and maintenance is carried out only when the system breaks down. The plant operators, electricians and mechanics have limited training.

There is no centralized sewerage system in Mazar. Traditional latrines are common in the houses with big yards. Regular garbage collection is not practiced.

X.1.9 Storage Facilities

Twelve warehouses have been built in Mazar city by the UN under the assistance of the Government of Finland with a storage capacity of 12,000 metric tons. One of the warehouse with UNICEF commodities caught fire and was completely destroyed on 23 July 1991. In addition, UN has been given access to one warehouse in Hairatan for food aids dispatched through the Soviet Union. The government owned Silo has a storage capacity of 40,000 MT of wheat. The city has four storage tanks for petrol, diesel, aircraft fuel and kerosene. Each tank has a storage capacity of 200,000 liters.

X1.10 Education

General education in Mazar suffers from the following war related problems:

- The number of school buildings, owned and run by the Ministry of Education, is very limited and a significant number of schools are located in rented private houses. The facilities are inadequate and construction of new schools and repair of existing facilities is urgently needed.

- Primary and secondary schools suffer from shortage of teaching material, which is partly due to the latest policy changes in the education sector.

- The number of qualified teachers is limited, and the official pay scales are very low.

- As was discussed earlier, there are some schools and institutes in Mazar that offer vocational education and in-service training programmes.

X1.11 Health Status

The city of Mazar is considered only next to Kabul city in terms of having well equpped medical facilities.

The Base Hospital in Mazar is equipped with medical, surgical, dental, ear and throat, eye, antenatal, paediatrics and other units. There are also 8 small hospitals mostly them for outpatient treatment. The major problems in health sector in Mazar are reported to be the following:

- Shortage of qualified medical personnel.

- As the Base Hospital serves the whole region, the number of beds is considered grossly inadequate.

- Laboratory facilities and materials are limited.

- Shortage of some often needed medicines.

- Major causes of deaths are diarrhea, heart diseases, A.R.I, and war related accidents.

X.1.12 Other Socio-Economic Activities

Mazar is the major commercial center for the northern region. Commercial activities in the city is mostly in the hands of the private sector. Exports from Mazar to other parts of the country and to foreign markets include carpets, rugs and mats, karakul skins, wool, cotton, various types of fresh and dried fruits, nuts, etc.

There are about 2,115 shops and 2,331 small artisan workshops in the city. The food grain market is located in the city center with about 250 shops. In August 1991, the stores and the shops seemed to be full of goods including the wheat flour.

Offices of Da Afghanistan Bank, Bank-i-Milli (National Bank), Pashtany Tejaraty Bank, and Agricultural Development Bank are located in the city.

There are two cinema halls in the city, operated by the municipality. The holy shrine of Hazrat Ali with the Blue Mosque, located in the center of the city, is a place for pilgrimage. Before the war thousands of pilgrims from a number of Islamic countries and from other provinces used to visit the shrine.

maintenance of irrigation canals and disrupted flow of agricultural inputs have unfavourably affected agricultural output and productivity.

Industrial production in the province also play a significant role in the economy. The only urea fertilizer plant in the country, with a capacity of 400 mt. of urea per day, is located 20 km. from the city of Mazar. The plant also produces thermal power based on natural gas, and each of its three turbines have a capacity of producing 12,000 kw. per hour. The textile plant located in Mazar has a production capacity of 22 million meters per year. A flour milling and bakery plant (Silo) with a capacity of 25 mt. of bread per day and a storage capacity of 40,000 mt. of wheat, is also located in Mazar. The cotton gin and pressing plant located in Mazar produces pressed cotton, cotton seeds, seed oil, and other by-products such as soap and animal feed.

In addition to the relatively large scale public sector industries, there are many small scale and cottage industries including carpet weaving, fruit processing, plastics, ice making, silk works, pottery, blacksmith, jeweleries, karakul skin processing and bakeries. Salt, quarts, lime stones, oil and gas are among the mineral reserves of the province. Mazar airport is located about 15 km. from the city center. As Mazar is the center for UN activities in the northern provinces, a UN plane operates twice a week to and from Kabul.

Despite the attraction provided by the sacred and ancient monuments in the province, tourism has been suffering severely due to the decade long conflict.

The main road linking Kabul with the northern border town of Hairatan, the major supply point for the capital city, has been maintained in good condition. Many alternative routes, either around Mazar or in the northern part of the province, are operative but have been badly damaged and require repairs.

The education facilities in the province supported by the government consist of 85 primary schools, 20 secondary schools, several technical training schools and one religious school (madrassa). The University of Balkh, established in 1988, has 1,042 students. It is reported that over 100 schools and madrassas are functional in the opposition controlled areas. Twenty schools are supported by the NGO called Afghanistan Education and one by the Muslim Aid. It is estimated that 137 schools have been damaged or destroyed due to the war.

Health facilities and services in the province, as in other parts of the country, are inadequate. Most of the facilities supported by the government are located in Mazar, the provincial capital. The Base Hospital located in Mazar has medical specialists, physicians, nurses, midwives, lab technicians, dentists and other medical personnel. The hospital is equipped with 189 beds. Expansion of this hospitals is under way. Two other small hospitals with 10-20 beds are reported to be working in Kholm and Balkh townships. In addition 13

X.2 BALKH DISTRICT

X.2.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Balkh
Mean Altitude:	340 meters
Land Area:	481 sq.km.
Population (1990):	86,505
Population Density:	180 per sq. km.
No. of Villages:	93 main villages, 13 sub-villages
Political Parties:	Government, Jamiat, Hezbi Islami
Main Economic activity:	Agriculture
Other Activities:	Carpet weaving, pottery,

X.2.2 Background

Balkh district is located about 24 km. north-west of Mazar at the center of a canal irrigated area. The entire land area of the district is plain and quite different from other mountainous parts of the province. The new part of Balkh city is laid out as a series of angular rings with radial roads at 45 degree intervals. The area to the south of the city is agricultural land. The ancient boundary wall of Balkh city and numerous houses have been destroyed or damaged by the war.

The main sources of livelihood in the district are agriculture, animal husbandry and handicrafts. Although part of the district is under government control, security conditions in most parts of the district have been bad. War effects and damages are evident. It is claimed that 60 culverts, 12 schools, 20 bridges, a hospital and numerous houses have been destroyed or damaged due to the war.

X.2.3 Population

The Census conducted in 1978/79 reported the population of Balkh district as 69,949. Estimated population of 1990 is 86,505 persons, while the number of refugees in Pakistan is 5,269. Population density is about 180 persons per square kilometer, which is the second highest in the province. About half of the district population is concentrated in the city limits of Balkh and the rest scattered in the villages. The dominant ethnic group in the district is of Pashtuns.

X.2.4 Agriculture

The land in Balkh district is fertile. Wheat is the dominant crop. In 1989/90 wheat was grown in an area of about 15,000 hectares. The wheat output in 1990 was 18,000

mt. The second major crop is cotton, cultivated on 2,642 ha. with a production of 3,236 mt. in 1990. Balkh district also produces a good quality of fruits including melons, apples, grapes, and pomegranates.

Out of the irrigable area of about 28,000 hectares, only about 1/3 is being irrigated at present. Double cropping is practiced on a limited scale due to scarcity of water. River Balkhab is the main source of water.

Two seed farms namely Zozan and Deragy are located in the district. They are operated by Improved Seed Enterprise of the Ministry of Agriculture. It has been reported that both farms planted a total of 105 hectares of winter/spring wheat during 1990/91. The Zozan farm encompasses a total of 186 hectares and Deragy 122 hectares. The area and production for 1979 and 1990 on the two farms is given below.

Farm	Wheat		Barley		Cotton	
	Area (ha)	Prod. (mt.)	Area (ha)	Prod. (mt.)	Area (ha)	Prod. (mt.)
Zozan						
1979	200	73	156	54	80	14
1990	339	39	-	-	90	7
Deragy						
1979	140	40	100	30	50	8
1990	168	18	-	-	30	4

Source: GOA, Ministry of Agriculture, Imrpoved Seed Enterprise, 1991

A branch of Gin and Press factory is located in the district where cotton is collected from farmers and sent to the provincial center. There were cottage industries such as pottery, brick making, and lime extraction before the war but their number has now been drastically reduced. The finest quality hand made Afghan carpets "Mauri" are made in Balkh.

X.2.5 Transport & Road Condition

Militia groups control the main road from Mazar to Balkh city. This road is reported to be secure and asphalted. "Milli Bus Service" which is managed by the government, provides service between the cities of Mazar and Balkh.

With the exception of the main road into the town and three vital routes, all the roads and drainage ditches in new parts of the town are in urgent need of rehabilitation.

The municipal authorities report that 250 km. stretch of roads are damaged and unserviceable. Many of the roads with access to farming areas also need repairs urgently.

One post office and 50 telephone lines, connected with Mazar, are available in Balkh city. Part of the Balkh district receive T.V. broadcasting from Mazar station. Radio Balkh from Mazar also covers this district.

X.2.6 Water Supply and Sanitation

A UNICEF assisted project provides the only drinking water supply facility to Balkh city. It is in the form of a 60m. deep bore fitted with a 15 to 20 L/s pump (no specification available), which supplies water to a reservoir located in the center of the city. The well is 1.6 km. south-east of the center and the 65 mm. main pipe follows a radial road to the center ring. City dwellers are provided with water via 12 standpipes. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, which maintains the system does not have funds to extend the network. A village headman operates the pump three times a day for a total of 4 hours. There are no house connection facilities. In rest of the district water from irrigation canals is used for consumption and domestic purposes.

There is no sewerage system in Balkh. The new circular part of the city is not too densely populated while the outer rings contain gardens and agricultural land. In these areas the sanitation methods are more traditional. Ditches (with sewerage disposal) are cleaned occasionally with equipments loaned from Mazar.

X.2.7 Education

According to the Ministry of Education there are 13 primary schools functioning in the district out of which 11 are boys' and 2 are girls' schools attended by 2,113 boys and 138 girls. There are also 3 secondary schools in Balkh; one each for boys and girls are located in the city center, and the other school is located in the village of Ahsarak. The government figures indicate that these secondary schools in 1990 had an enrollment of 2,012 students, of which 1,377 were boys and 635 girls.

A primary school attended by 360 students with 6 teachers managed by Hezbi Islami is reported to be in operation since 1989 in Rahmatullah village.

X.2.8 Health

Balkh district has only one hospital with 3 doctors, 2 para medical personnel, 2 nurses, and 2 midwives operating under the Ministry of Public Health. The war has reduced the capacity of this hospital by 50%. Currently only 10 beds are available to the patients.

X.3 DEHDADI DISTRICT

X.3.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Dehdadi
Mean Altitude:	360 meters
Land Area:	233 sq.km.
Population (1990):	40,228
Population Density:	173 per sq.km.
No. of Villages:	23
Main Economic Activity:	Agriculture and animal husbandry
Other Activities:	Handicraft

X.3.2 Background

Dehdadi district extends towards the west of Mazar, covering an area of 233 sq.km. The district is in close proximity to Mazar, the provincial center of Balkh, The Power and Fertilizer Plant is located in this district.

X.3.3 Population

The government Census reports that the population of Dehdadi district was 32,592 in 1979. The population density estimated for 1990 is about 173 per square kilometer. Major ethnic group in the district is of Tajiks. About 10,000 persons were reportedly internally displaced due to the war and about 400 migrated out of the country. According to officials in the district, about 100 refugees have returned so far.

X.3.4 Agriculture

Dehdadi does not have extensive agricultural area and land holdings are relatively small. Wheat is the principal crop grown in an area of about 6,000 ha., followed by cotton (1,000 ha.) and vegetables (1,500 ha.). Dehadi pomegranates are in demand in Mazar markets and elsewhere. The district having proximitly to the Mazar markets has easy access to agricultural inputs.

Irrigated as well as dry farming is practiced in the district. Seventy-five percent of the cultivated area is irrigated by water from streams and canals. Farming in the villages of Karez Khord and Karez Kalan depend on karezes (underground canals). Mostly wheat and barley are grown by dry farming. In the plain pasture lands of the district livestock rearing is the main economic activity.

Khosapaz Seed Farm is located in Dehdadi near the Fertilizer Factory. Under

FAO assistance the farm has been producing improved seed which is being distributed by the Institute of Seed Enterprise (ISE). The extent of seed production in terms of area and actual production in 1979 and 1990 is given below:

Year	Wheat		Barley		Pea		Sesame		Cotton	
	Area (ha.)	Prod. (mt.)	Area (ha.)	Prod. (mt.)	Area (ha.)	Prod. (mt.)	Area (ha.)	Prod. (mt.)	Area (ha.)	Prod. (mt.)
1979	206	57	143	40	25	1.3	23	0.6	70	14
1990	350	74	-	-	-	-	10	1.1	140	32

Source: GOA, Mazar ISE, 1990

X.3.5 Industries

Afghanistan's only chemical fertilizer factory is located in Dehdadi district about 20 km. from Mazar. The factory was commissioned in 1973 with the assistance of Soviet Union and has a capacity of producing 400 metric tons of urea per day. At present, 2,284 employees are working in the factory and some of them have been provided with housing facility within the 400 housing units owned by the factory.

X.3.6 Transport and Road Conditions

The asphalt road from Mazar goes upto the Fertilizer Factory and is in good condition. Private as well as government bus service is available from Mazar to the factory complex. Rest of the roads in the district are either gravel or dirt tracks.

X.3.7 Education

There are 9 primary schools (6 boys and 3 girls) where 1,724 boys and 901 girls are admitted. In addition, 3 boys and 1 girls secondary school are located in the district. Status of education is relatively better in Dehdahi compared to other districts in the province. In addition to the schools managed by the Ministry of Education, the Fertilizer Factory also runs a school for the children of its employees. Five kindergartens are in operation with the total admissions of about 330 children.

One school was completely damaged during the war. Three schools are functioning in open air without any form of shelter.

X.3.8 Health

Health service coverage in the district is very low and there is no hospital or clinic managed by the Ministry of Public Health. There is a hospital with clinical facilities within the Fertilizer Factory complex under the management of the factory. Only the family members of the factory employees have access to this facility. In addition, there is a temporary health center in a partially completed building with 1 doctor, 2 para medical personnel, 2 nurses, and one midwife. There are 3 pharmacies in the district.

Though the Power and Fertilizer Factory Complex has tap-water facility for its employee, rest of the population in Dehdadi depends on streams and canals for drinking water.

X.4 KHOLM DISTRICT

X.4.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Kholm
Mean Altitude:	420 meters
Land Area:	4,247 sq.km.
Population (1990):	62,288
Population Density:	15 per sq. km.
No. of Villages:	43
Political Parties:	Government, Jamiat, Hezbi, Harakat
Main Economic activity:	Agriculture
Other Activities:	Pottery, tiles, handicrafts

X.4.2 Background

Kholm is the largest district in Balkh province, bordering Kunduz Province in the east and Samangan Province in the south. Desert-like dry land covers the north-eastern parts of the district while the south-west is mostly mountainous. Kholm District was administered previously under Samangan province, but was annexed to Balkh Province during the later part of 1980's.

X.4.3 Population

According to UNIDATA estimates, the total population of Kholm is 62,228 persons, out of which about 3,000 are in Pakistan as refugees. Tajiks dominate the ethnic composition followed by Pashtuns. Population density is about 15 per sq. km. which is the lowest in the province. Approximately 30-40 percent of the district's population is reported to have migrated out due to the war. Many houses have been destroyed during the last decade due to the war as well.

X.4.4 Agriculture

Kholm produces grape, almond, and pomegranate. The Department of Agriculture estimates that about 2,500 ha. of vine yards, 1,400 ha. of almond, and 1,000 ha. of pomegranate orchards exist in the district. The major crop cultivated in the district is wheat.

X.4.5 Mining and Industries

A salt mine is located in Nybabad village; however, extraction is not done in an organized manner. Some individuals extract salt in small quantities privately.

X.4.6 Transport and Road Conditions

Mazar-Hairatan and Mazar-Kabul highways and the supply route from Soviet Union passes through Kholm. Obstructions are often reported due to fighting between government and opposition groups. The town of Kolm has been severely affected by the war and the road network around the town has been badly damaged.

X.4.7 Education

According to the Department of Education in Mazar 8 primary boys' schools with 1,545 students and one secondary boys' school with 149 students are functioning in Kholm district. These are, however, mainly confined to the Kholm town and there are no schools in the rural areas. Almost all the school buildings are damaged due to the war.

X.4.8 Health

In Kholm center a hospital equipped with 10 beds is reported to be functioning. The hospital has a doctor and three nurses. Some clinics are also reportedly functioning in Mujahideen controlled areas, one located in Gozur-i-Yakqubi village, managed by Harakat.

X.5 SHULGAREH DISTRICT

X.5.1 Basic Features

Name of the District:	Shulgareh
Mean Altitude:	630 meters
Land Area:	1,663 sq.km.
Population (1990):	90,624
Population Density:	54 per sq.km.
No. of Villages:	18 main villages, 1 sub-village
Main Economic Activity:	Agriculture and animal husbandry
Other Activities:	Carpet weaving

X.5.2 Background

Shulgareh is surrounded by Chemtal and Dehdadi in north-east, Charkent in the west, and Keshendeh in the south. River Balkhab passes through Shulgareh towards north, dividing the district in two parts. Though on both sides of the river the landscape is hilly and mountainous, Shulgareh is a very fertile valley.

X.5.3 Population

According to UNIDATA 1990 estimates, the population of Shulgareh is about 90,624, which is the second largest district population in Balkh province. Population density is relatively low (54 per sq.km.) The estimates show that about 3,000 refugees from Shulgareh are still in Pakistan. Athough war has not caused much population movement in this district, Dai Morak, Ghuane Shekandar, Qalam Bala village, and some areas near Shulgareh bazaar are still deserted as a result of the internal conflict. Some of the displaced population from Jowzjan/Saripul province have moved into this district. Some wealthy land owners from the district have left for Mazar. Tajiks, Pashtuns, and Uzbeks dominate the ethnic composition of the district.

X.5.4 Agriculture

The main source of livelihood in the district is agriculture and animal husbandry. About 50 - 70 percent of the agricultural area is located along River Balkhab. The only rice growing area in the province is found in Shulgareh valley. Wheat was the main crop grown on about 12,000 hectares in 1990. More than 90 percent of the wheat area is irrigated. Barley, cotton, and sesame are the other crops grown in this valley. On irrigated areas farmers are able to obtain two harvests per year.

Carpet weaving is one of the principal activity in the district.

X.5.5 Transport and Road Conditions

Part of the road from Mazar to Shulgareh which passes through Dehdadi is asphalt and in fairly secure condition. A dirt track leads up to Chesmi Safa, but beyond that and upto Shulgareh the track becomes impassable during the rainy season.

X.5.6 Education

The education system is severely paralyzed in Shulgareh. According to official records only one primary school with 65 students (all boys) with 3 teachers is functioning in the government controlled area. Fourteen schools have been badly damaged due to the war. There is no secondary school in the district.

X.5.7 Health

Health sector also has deteriorated in the district. One hospital and one clinic are reportedly functioning in the government controlled area. Jamiat is said to be running two clinics in Baghe Pahlawan and Quadim villages. It is reported that one clinic in Siah Chasma village is being operated by Hezbi Islami.

outpatient clinics are reported to be functioning in various parts of the province (9 of them in Mazar). Thirty-seven out of 48 health clinics and 11 out of 19 Basic Health Centers (BHC) in the province are also located in the provincial capital. In addition, 33 clinics operated by the Peshawar-based Alliance Health Committee are reported to be functioning in various parts of the province. ICRC has begun construction of a badly needed rehabilitation center for a sizeable disabled population in the area. However, health services in the province in general remain relatively poor due to the lack of qualified personnel, equipment and medicines.

Water supply in the province comes from two sources: rivers/canals and underground water. Balkh valleys' water supply depends on the Balkh river (Blakhab) originating from Band-i-Amir in Bamyan, and its 10 canals (Nahrs) called Narhe Balkh, Shahi, Abdullah, Chemtal, Dawlatabad, Saihgerd, Sharsharak, Charbulaq, Moshtaq and Faizabad. The Shahi Canal provides water supply to Mazar. In view of the unsatisfactory sanitary conditions, assistance in drinking water supply and sanitation is urgently needed. The province does not have a proper sewrage system.

The Balkh radio and television stations are located in Mazar with 4 to 6 hours of daily broadcasting. The daily newspaper "Baedar" and a weekly paper "Yaldoz" (in Uzbeki) are circulated in limited numbers.

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Afghanistan

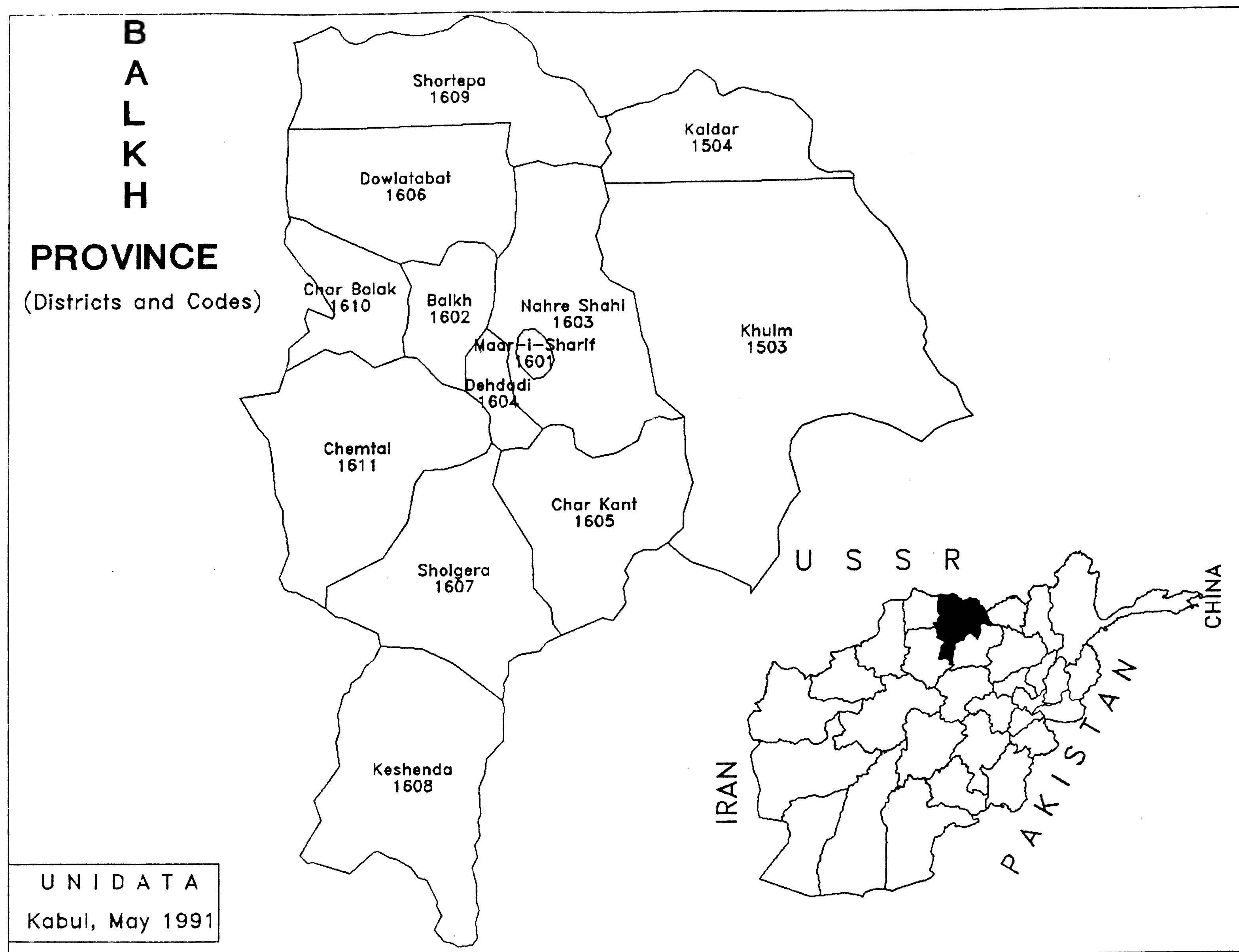
BALKH PROVINCE

A Socio-Economic Profile



UNIDATA
A Project of UNDP/OPS & UNOCA
March 1992




BALKH
PROVINCE
(Districts and Codes)
Shortepa
1609
Kaldar
1504
Dowlatabat
1606
Khulm
1503
Char Balak
1610
Balkh
1602
Nahre Shahi
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UNIDATA
Kabul, May 1991

PREFACE

'Balkh - A Socio-Economic Profile' provides an inventory of the current state of economic and social conditions and physical infrastructure at the provincial and district levels. The information is derived from surveys conducted by UNIDATA between June-October, 1990. Information from other sources has also been incorporated to complement and check consistency of data sets.

The report has been structured to provide sectoral analysis at the provincial and district level. The analysis at the district level also offers an assessment of the impect of the war on the local economy, highlighting inter-district variations. This should enable planners to determine sectoral resettlement and rehabilitation requirements at the district level.

The methodology of the data collection, as described in Page 1, was conditioned by the feasibility of implementing field surveys under the prevailing uncertain situations on the ground. Nonetheless, consistency of the information gathered has been checked against information available from secondary sources. The quality of the data may be further improved by accessing undated information as it becomes available from agencies involved in field work in Balkh province.

Comments on the report are welcomed and should be addressed to the Project Manager, UNIDATA, Kabul or to the Officer-in-Charge of any one of the UNIDATA project offices listed at the end of the report.

15 March 1992
Kabul, Afghanistan

David E. Lockwood
Resident Representative
UNDP-Kabul.

The UNIDATA survey results, and the analysis thereof, presented in this report are those of the UNIDATA project and do not necessarily reflect views of UNDP/OPS and UNOCA

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